Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you plan to attend any of the sessions in the ongoing 26th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference at the Saipan World Resort?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of June 25, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

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Harmless Transformers or racist robots? The buzz says two jive-talking Chevy characters are racial caricatures.

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$44.4 million stimulus fund request signed

- $32.3M goes to PSS
- $3.9M goes to NMC
- $8M goes to govt service fund

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday signed off on a revised application for a $44.43 million federal stimulus grant, over $32.3 million of which will go to the Public School System, some $3.9 million to the Northern Marianas

Fitial

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Continental Airlines returns

Commits to double-daily flights from Japan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A year after dropping direct flights to Saipan, Continental Airlines disclosed yesterday that it is resuming business with the Commonwealth by bringing to the island its first double-daily flights of the year from the CNMI's top market, Japan.

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Charles Duncan, managing director of Continental Airlines Inc., made the announcement in yesterday's bi-annual general membership meeting of the Mar-

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'FAS citizens also mistreated at Guam airport'

CNMI, Guam leaders ask for DHS investigation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Citizens of the Freely Associated States also endure mistreatment at the Guam international airport similar to those experienced by CNMI travelers, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday, as he supported a call for an investigation into the matter by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"We don't want our people to continue to be treated like criminals because that's exactly how they're treated," Fitial said in a news briefing on Capital Hill yester-

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1,000 lbs of WWII explosives blown up, capping environment conference

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

"I've never felt that much power."

This was how U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 acting administrator Laura Yoshii described the experience of pushing the remote button to detonate unexploded World War II ordnance with a total explosive weight of 1,000 lbs at the Ladderan Laggun cliff line in Marpi yesterday afternoon.

Yoshii is the highest U.S. EPA official currently on Saipan for the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference, which ended yesterday.

John McCarroll, manager of the U.S. EPA Region 9's Pacific Islands Office, pressed the remote button for the "bird shot"—the detonation of just a few pounds of explosives meant to scare away birds in the area to protect

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 acting administrator Laura Yoshii, left, and U.S. EPA Pacific Islands Office manager John McCarroll, right, receive a short briefing from a member of the U.S. Navy's Guam-based Explosives Ordnance Disposal Team shortly before the two federal officials pushed the button to detonate over 1,000 lbs of unexploded World War II ordnance in Marpi yesterday. Second photo shows the thick cloud of smoke that followed the detonation at 3pm yesterday, about a mile north of the Marpi landfill.

Local

Micronesian icon Resio Moses passes away at 65

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Close friends in the CNMI of the late Resio S. Moses, vice speaker of the Federated States of Micronesia Congress, were saddened by his passing this week, remembering him as one of the icons of leadership in the region.

Moses, who stayed for many years on Saipan during the Trust Territory days, died Monday while undergoing treatment at the Pohnpei State Hospital. He was 65.

He was a classmate of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial at the University of Guam.

Fitial said Moses was one of the top scholarship students of Micronesia, ascending through the ranks during the Trust Territory days.

Moses

"He was very personable. He didn't have enemies because he doesn't have the word 'enemy' in his vocabulary. His passing is a great loss to Micronesia. He is an example of a true public servant. He devoted his entire life to public service. He never stopped working for the public," Fitial said.

The governor said Moses was an icon for public service in the region.

Moses served as Special Assistant to the High Commissioner during the Trust Territory times, a member of the old Congress of Micronesia, and instructor and president of the College of Micronesia.

As FSM became an independent nation, Moses served as a two-term governor of Pohnpei State and ambassador to the United States. He was a senator at large in the FSM Congress when he passed away.

He spent many years on Saipan where he had many friends. Some of his other closest friends here include Department of Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario and Century Insurance president Dave Sablan.

Sablan said Moses was active in the community, having served as a board member of the Pohnpei Agriculture and Trade School, which was run by the Jesuit fathers of FSM. Sablan used to be the chairman of the board.

Sablan said he is not only a close associate of Moses but a distant relative as well. Sablan's oldest brother, Ignacio M. Sablan (father of Esther Fleming from the Governor's Office), is married to a first cousin of Moses.

"He was much involved in the FSM educational system. He will be missed a lot because he was very active in the community," said Sablan, who visited Moses about five years ago when he was the governor of Pohnpei.

Del Rosario recalled that during the '70s, Moses was an up-and-coming bright and young Micronesian leader in the traditional and budding democratic government.

"He became a governor and he trailblazed the demands of the traditional as well as democratic ideals. He was very intelligent and well-spoken," Del Rosario said.

Moses is survived by his wife Susan and their four children, Esmond, Tanya, Resio "Sammy" Moses Jr. and Rachel.

Hirsbein's new assignment is not a demotion—Kaipat

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Acting Department of Labor Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat said yesterday that the replacement of Harry Hirshbein as Labor director and his designation as an administrative hearing officer is "by no means a demotion."

Kaipat told *Saipan Tribune* she temporarily transferred Hirshbein to the Labor Administrative Hearing Office to help hear bonding cases promptly.

"Barry is our only 'spare' hearing officer as we cannot afford to hire outside lawyers. He is an excellent lawyer and has long experience as a hearing officer," she said.

Hirshbein was on a 10-day vacation leave when he received a memorandum from Kaipat that he is no longer the Labor director. Last Monday, Hirshbein went back to work in his previous capacity as Labor administrative hearing officer.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial echoed Kaipat's statement, saying Hirshbein was just "temporarily reassigned" as a labor administrative hearing officer and was not removed from his post as director of the Division of Labor because of a workload on pending labor cases involving nonresident workers' bonding.

Fitial said Hirshbein's temporary reassignment to his previous capacity is a "devotion," and not a "demotion."

"He was reassigned because we have a workload on pending labor cases involving bonding. We don't have enough people in the hearing office. Being a hearing officer himself for so many years, it's only the right thing for me to do, to reassign somebody with experience and know-how, back to the hearing office…That is a temporary reassignment," the governor said at a news briefing yesterday afternoon.

The Division of Labor, which Hirshbein headed for over a year, is one of the units under the Department of Labor headed by Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas.

Temporary assignments

Kaipat said they temporarily appointed Labor Processing Section supervisor Glenda Reyes as acting Labor director while Hirshbein is helping out in the Hearing Office.

Kaipat said that Reyes, as supervisor of the Processing Section, helped implement their "successful" automation project.

Kaipat said they shifted supervisory duties temporarily to Labor Enforcement Section chief Jeffrey Camacho.

"Camacho was instrumental in cleaning up all the old labor cases over the past two years," she said.

Kaipat said that when Superior Court associate judge Perry Inos issued an opinion requiring Labor to deal with bonding claims, they had to "get this work done."

"There has been no reorganization at the Department of Labor. We have a very limited budget, as you know, so we have to stretch our resources to meet new tasks. Sometimes that means shifting our personnel around temporarily to meet current needs. When Judge Inos issued an opinion requiring us to deal with bonding claims, we had to get this work done," she said.

Kaipat said they expect the Hearing Office to finish all old bonding claims by September 2009.

"And we expect that the Secretary will be finished with all appeals on old bonding claims by October. That will be the end of this new task," she added.

Kaipat also emphasized that the department went down from 85 employees in 2006 to 41 at present.

Fewer complainsts

Under the new system of handling bond claims, Kaipat said they expect fewer claims in the future.

Under PL 15-108, foreign workers must make their claims within six months of the employer conduct about which they are complaining and, in any event, within 30 days after the termination of their contract.

"This means that complaints are resolved promptly, and we don't have the problem of employers disappearing over the years that it formerly took to get a claim adjudicated. We also don't have the problem of disappearing insurance companies," she said. ***(With Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Asiana's GM bids goodbye

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Asiana Airlines' general manager Kwang Joong Kim, who came to the islands in January 2005, will be leaving his post to take up another position in South Korea next week.

During yesterday meeting of the Marianas Visitors Authority members, Kim expressed appreciation to the CNMI and its people for the heartwarming accommodation and hospitality they showed him during his four-year stay on the island.

The outgoing Asiana airline top official said he will continue to assist the CNMI in promoting the destination among Koreans.

Kim will be transferred to Asiana's office in Korea on June 30.

The MVA lauded Kim's valuable contribution to the many successful ventures of Asiana Airlines on the islands. MVA board chair Jerry Tan, along with other members and lawmakers, awarded Kim a plaque of recognition for all his achievements in the CNMI.

The official, who promised to serve as "NMI tourism ambassador" to Korea, was instrumental in the growth of Korean arrivals for many years. From just seven regular flights between Korea and Saipan, Asiana Airlines brought the number to 21 last December. Yesterday, it was announced that one more flight from Korea will be added in August.

"He worked very hard and spent a lot of time to make this happen for the CNMI. Through Mr. Kim, we've seen the growth of Korean arrivals and he served as our savior since Japan Airlines pulled out in 2005," Tan said, adding that Kim played a key role in the entry of Kumho group, which acquired the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

In his message, Kim reiterated his commitment to be of service to the Commonwealth, where he said he made good friends. He said Asiana will remain a committed partner of CNMI tourism and will continue to bring more flights in the near future.

Kim said he hopes to see arrivals from Korea reach 500,000 in the next five years.

Last year, MVA reported over 100,000 Korean tourists in the CNMI from only about 50,000 when Kim first came to the CNMI.

"I will make it happen…because I will be your ambassador to Korea," he said, adding that Saipan is also a good place to promote as an edu-tourism destination, especially for non-English learners.

Kim believes that allowing investors to own land in the CNMI would jumpstart the economy.

Barrett vows to prioritize zoning permit applications

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

New Saipan Zoning administrator Victor Barrett said he will make sure that the backlog of permit applications and inquiries are on top of his priorities, as he thanked the Zoning Board and the Office of the Governor for their support in welcoming him and his family to their new home on Saipan.

Barrett, who assumed office last Monday, said he is honored to take on his new post as it will be an "opportunity to serve the citizens and businesses of this unique, stunningly beautiful, and bountiful island community."

His first steps include working on understanding the urgent needs of businesses and citizens who depend on the efficient and fair implementation of the Zoning Law.

"I am acutely aware that working through the backlog of permit applications and inquiries will be my priority," he said.

The Zoning Office has been understaffed for several months now with only two officers. Since taking over on June 22, Barrett said the office now has six, including himself.

"With this full team performing diligently, I look forward to working through the backlog quickly," he said.

He wants to meet with concerned citizens and businesses over the next few weeks and is planning to announce progress reports to keep the public informed and to clarify any misunderstandings of the law that may come up.

Barrett said the zoning law gives businesses on Saipan the opportunity to dramatically improve the appeal and efficiency of the business climate on the island, not only for the people of Saipan but for tourists as well.

Following his selection as the new administrator by the zoning board chaired by Henry Hofschneider a month ago, Barrett visited Saipan and had the opportunity to review the law on his way back to his hometown in Arizona.

He said that through public presentations, he hopes to show how zoning and good urban planning can promote safe, sustainable, more accessible, and attractive development. "The natural beauty of Saipan should be reflected in, and enhanced by, the built environment. Saipan is a special place with the unique opportunity to be a beacon of sustainable and abundant living," he said.

Barrett believes that by working together with a common vision, "we can look forward to a more attractive and safe public realm, increasing quality of life, and the preservation and strengthening of the island's cultural heritage."

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EXPLOSIVES

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them from the main detonation.

Along with environment conference participants and other U.S. EPA officials, Yoshii and McCarroll toured the Marpi area, which is being cleared of war ordnance, with the help of a U.S. EPA Brownfields grant of $750,000 previously awarded to the Department of Public Lands. Yesterday, Yoshii presented another $750,000 in Brownfields grant to DPL.

After the tour, over a hundred individuals, mostly environmental conference participants, witnessed the detonation from atop Suicide Cliff.

Eight-year-old Rudolfo Pua Jr., one of the youngest spectators, said he's also excited about seeing the detonation. He was accompanied by his 12-year-old sister and their father, former Emergency Management Office director Rudolfo Pua.

Members of the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment from Guam, with the assistance of the CNMI Explosives Response Team, Ampro and other CNMI agencies, conducted the detonation.

John Scott, president of Ampro, said the detonated items included thousands of mostly projectiles, while the rest were hand grenades and mortars.

This is the third detonation of some 1,000 lbs of war ordnance since the clearing of over 60 hectares of public lands in Marpi began.

"We expect to find more in the next three months, and will hold additional detonations," he said.

Capt. Pete Leon Guerrero, officer in charge of the Explosive Response Team or XRT, said the recent detonations were the biggest haul since 2004.

The Marpi area, which is being cleared of war ordnance, was used by the U.S. military immediately after the capture of Saipan during World War II to store thousands of tons of ordnance for the impending invasion of the Japanese mainland.

In the 1950s, the U.S. Army attempted to dispose of the munitions by blowing them up in place, but it was only partly successful, leaving the area with unexploded ordnance, according to the biological assessment of the area.

A decade later, a cleanup operation was undertaken and 4,000 tons of hazardous materials were collected and disposed of. Conservative estimates say less than half the ordnance present was removed.

Saipan was a major battleground between American and Japanese forces during World War II.

Scott yesterday said that some ordnance are also still being found to this day in other Pacific areas, including American Samoa, Hawaii, Palau and Pohnpei.

STIMULUS

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College, and some $8 million for government service fund.

No portion of the expected grant funds will be used for the renewal of government workers' contracts expiring in July. The administration projects overshoot its budget by $10 million to $12 million by the end of Fiscal Year 2009.

"We are still waiting if our contracts will be extended or renewed," one of the government workers whose contract expires next month told *Saipan Tribune*.

Furloughs by department or program may start next month unless the government is able to identify funds or further reduce expenditures through the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30. With only a few days left before the end of the third quarter, the administration said it would have a better assessment of how much is left for the last quarter.

Compact impact

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos yesterday said $3.2 million of the $8 million in government service funding will be used to offset the sharp cuts made in the CNMI's Compact Impact under the Obama administration's proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget to Congress.

Under the federal budget proposal, the CNMI will be getting only $1.93 million in Compact Impact funding, an over 62 percent drop from the previous funding of $5.172 million.

The balance of some $4.8 million will go to the Department of Public Health, mostly to fund the medical referral program, while the rest will go to the Department of Public Safety, said Inos.

"Hopefully, that will ease out or dampen the burden on the operational funds to address those areas," he said in a news briefing on Capital Hill yesterday.

Education funds

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan and NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez witnessed Fitial's signing of the revised American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant application, to be submitted yesterday to the U.S. Department of Education.

The ARRA funds will restore funding to PSS and NMC, Inos said.

Sablan and Fernandez said they are thankful for the appropriations, adding that the money will go a long way in ensuring quality education for CNMI students.

"We may be the first outlying area to submit a revised application. Hopefully, we'll be the first one to receive the money too," said Sablan.

Fernandez said the money will go towardsNMC accreditation efforts and the implementation of the college's strategic plan.

Inos said they expect the application to be reviewed and approved promptly. He said once approved, the CNMI could get at least 67 percent of the total requested amount.

"We hope that by the time we're done, [federal stimulus] funds will bring it up to hopefully $200 million," Inos said, as Fitial said, "God is good."

WGA meeting

Fitial, in the news briefing, said he was able to raise the issue of a visa waiver for Chinese tourists visiting the CNMI, during his private meeting with the new U.S. ambassador to China, Jon M. Huntsman Jr., at the recent Western Governors Association annual meeting in Utah.

"I told him that I don't think it's right for the U.S. government to consider China as a national threat," Fitial said, referring to the negative impact on CNMI tourism if the federal government excludes China, as well as Russia, from the federal visa waiver program by Nov. 28.

Fitial said Huntsman told him that he also doesn't think China should be considered a national threat.

But Huntsman urged him to also raise the issue with the Department of Homeland Security. Fitial sued the U.S. government over federalization.

Fitial also said that the WGA members are planning to tour China in September, and he offered his assistance in coordinating the trip.

Other issues

As for the Open Government Act lawsuit filed by Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) against Fitial and Inos, the governor said they will be releasing the documents requested after the federalization lawsuit is finished.

"We always maintain that all this information will be available for public consumption after the conclusion of the lawsuit. So we don't have any reservation in providing this information after the case is concluded. But the case is still ongoing," he said.

Inos, meanwhile, said he and Fitial respect the Republican primary set for tomorrow. Fitial said the Covenant team is ready to face in the November polls whoever wins the Republican primary.

FAS

From Page 1

day afternoon.

Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan yesterday asked Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to investigate the alleged negative treatment of CNMI travelers at the Guam airport by federal authorities, a day after Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that he will raise the issue with federal officials.

Fitial said he supports Sablan's call for a DHS investigation, after the two had a teleconference yesterday morning.

He said he also discussed the matter with Camacho when he was here at the opening of the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference on Tuesday, as well as with the assistant secretary of the U.S. Navy.

Two Japanese businessmen managing multi-million investments in the CNMI for years earlier shared with *Saipan Tribune* their personal experiences at the Guam airport where they said they were subjected to verbal abuse and foul gestures, and were held for a few hours, making them almost miss their connecting flights.

They said Guam was not their last destination, as they were just transiting.

"There are other cases, and some of these cases also involve FAS citizens, including the Republic of the Marshall Islands, so it's increasing in terms of intensity as far as mistreatment and harassment of CNMI and FAS citizens on Guam," Fitial said.

The FAS consists of the Marshall Islands, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, which is composed of Yap, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Kosrae.

Fitial cited as an example an e-mail he received from a friend from the Marshall Islands who complained about mistreatment at the Guam airport.

The governor said this has been going on for some time now. This is, however, the first time that victims of alleged mistreatment at the Guam airport have raised their concerns with local officials, including Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), who in turn raised the issue with Fitial through a letter. Reyes said his former wife, a U.S. citizen with Filipino descent, suffered the same fate at the Guam airport.

Fitial said the gravity of the matter prompted its inclusion on the agenda of the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit in July.

"We suspect it's more of Saipan-Guam people but I don't know what it is between Guam and other [Pacific] nations. We have this feud between the Chamorros of Guam and Chamorros of the CNMI. That's what we suspect. I hope we're wrong," Fitial said.

Customs, immigration and other enforcement personnel on Guam are federal employees and are not under the authority of the local government.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the Fitial administration is not familiar with the composition of the Guam airport enforcement officers, and "where they come from."

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, in an interview on Tuesday, said his administration wants "to ensure that our federal partners will work along with us, that there's no room for a sense of bigotry or prejudice or use of abusive language or mistreatment of citizens or any visitors to the Marianas, be it Guam or Saipan."

'Troubling'

Sablan, in a June 24 letter to DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano, raised "very serious concerns" about reports of federal enforcement officers singling out CNMI travelers at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport on Guam.

"I write to ask that you investigate these reports—and that any such negative treatment immediately stop," Sablan said.

One of the businessmen who experienced mistreatment at the Guam airport said he was told by an immigration officer that green card holders from the CNMI cannot re-enter the Commonwealth without employment authorization.

Sablan, in his letter to Napolitano, said this statement "is not only false, but is also beyond the purview of federal immigration officials."

"These reports are deeply troubling at a time when there is a heightened need for trust between my constituents in the Northern Mariana Islands and the Department of Homeland Security. I thank you for your prompt investigation of these reports and speedy resolution of any problems those investigations reveal," Sablan told Napolitano.

The start of transition to federal immigration in the CNMI is set for Nov. 28, but DHS has yet to issue regulations on the CNMI-only transitional worker program and investor/student program.

DHS has so far issued only a joint visa waiver regulation that excludes the CNMI's emerging tourism markets of China and Russia.

CONTINENTAL

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ianas Visitors Authority.

Duncan, who spoke about the challenges and opportunities in the Japan market, said the double-daily flights will begin July 18 through Sept. 23 this year and will use a Boeing 737 aircraft to transport passengers from Tokyo, Japan.

Duncan said the aircraft are currently stationed in Guam and will be transferred to the CNMI throughout the period.

"We're very excited about it and we hope to see more of our aircraft here in the near future," Duncan said, adding that Continental Airlines will consider all opportunities to be seen in the CNMI.

MVA board chair Jerry Tan yesterday said Continental's decision is a big help in filling the vacant slots from the Japanese market.

"With the reduction of capacity from the Japan market, we're very happy that Continental is willing to fill those seats. Continental Airlines is an original player for the last 40 years and MVA will do what it takes to encourage them to come back all year round," he told the crowd of over a hundred guests mostly from the private sector.

"Welcome back!" Tan added.

Federalization

The dramatic hike in fuel costs and low sales prompted Continental Airlines to end service between Saipan and Manila last July 2008. It also closed down its ticketing office here, ending 40 years of serving Saipan and the region.

Duncan admitted that the airline's plans and direction for the CNMI will also depend on the federalization law, Public Law 110-229. The Department of Homeland Security has yet to finalize regulations on the CNMI-Guam visa waiver program.

"Sooner, we can get a clearer plan for the CNMI after this federalization [issue]," he said.

Duncan emphasized the important role played by Continental/Cape Air for the Rota charters, which began on April 24, 2008. Last year, Continental/Cape Air brought in a total of 23 flights; 22 have so far been recorded in 2009.

Duncan said Continental will continue to evaluate profitable opportunities for the future and Cape Air will remain its primary link to the CNMI.

"Non-stop flights to Asia are possible, if we can build a business case for them," he said.

'Marketing challenges'

The airline executive stressed that, for the tourism industry to grow, the CNMI must not try to be Guam and must focus on one to two segments and do them well.

It should also escape the temptation of dropping prices because he believes that cheap pricing conveys the wrong message, especially in Japan.

"All industry players need to be profitable…and don't wait for a crisis to take action," he added.

'53 flights cancelled in 2 months'

Duncan admitted that the airline was faced with many "challenges" in the past several months due to a variety of factors.

On top of these is the swine-flu scare, which caused the cancellation of 53 flights in two months and an 80-percent impact on the airline's revenues in May.

"Continental cancelled 36 flights in June due to swine-flu and low demand and we already recorded 17 cancellations for July," he said, adding that bookings for these flights were done since last year.

The airline also saw a 10 percent reduction in seats during the Golden Week celebration for the same reasons.

He described the booking trend as a a continuous "flatline" since May.

"But we took the risk to bring these double-daily flights because we're hopeful on the opportunities from the CNMI," he said.

During the open-forum session, Duncan urged the MVA and the CNMI community to make the new venture a success.

"Let's all make it work!" he said.

MVA shares efforts to increase tourism in NMI

BY ANITA B. HOFSCHNEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Marianas Visitor's Authority yesterday detailed its efforts to increase tourism in the CNMI at its bi-annual general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Perry John P. Tenorio, MVA managing director, shared MVA's endeavors in marketing, destination enhancement, and the Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit project. He gave an overview of MVA's accomplishments by region and addressed Japan, Korea, China, and Russia.

Tenorio

"Japan remains our largest single source market," he said.

MVA's marketing efforts toward Japan consist of dive and golf fairs, a revised active senior campaign, and Rota island charters, among other projects.

Japanese media has also offered free coverage of the CNMI in areas such as sports, history, and leisure, Tenorio said.

CNMI media exposure is not limited to Japan.

The islands have been featured on a Korean home shopping network, said Tenorio. MVA has also attracted Korean tourists through special promotions and a fair on educational opportunities in the CNMI.

On the Chinese and Russian markets, Tenorio said MVA was present at travel trade expositions in several Chinese cities and has promoted CNMI festivals and Shanghai charters. MVA has also garnered charters from Vladivostok and initiated a children's summer campaign there.

Tenorio acknowledged that MVA's outreach to China and Russia may have to end.

"We stand to lose [Russia's] family-oriented tourism under federalization," said Tenorio.

MVA plans to market the CNMI more vigorously in Australia and Guam to help compensate for the business that will be lost if visitors from Russia and Japan are not granted visa waivers when U.S. immigration policies are imposed in the CNMI.

Tenorio said MVA hopes to make the CNMI a more popular destination through niche marketing in the areas of sports tourism, educational tourism, and the new national monument.

Tenorio ended by discussing plans to enhance the CNMI's attractiveness to visitors.

A $145,000 grant is available from capital improvement project funds for renovation of the Susupe ball park, and MVA has been working to make Kalabera cave more tourist-friendly since last summer, he said.

Tenorio also described the Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit project, which MVA initiated to promote the CNMI and encourage community involvement in making the islands a more beautiful, welcoming destination.

Despite Tenorio's description of MVA's achievements, meeting attendees expressed concern about the direction of the tourist industry in the CNMI.

"The most important thing right now is still the visa waiver," said Kieran Daly, general manager of the Pacific Islands Club, yesterday.

About 20 percent of PIC's guests are Russian tourists.

Akira Onishi, general manager of Capricciosa and Tony Roma's restaurants, similarly said that although he was happy to hear about MVA's efforts, he remained concerned about the loss of business from Russia.

"Russian guests spend lots of money," said Onishi.

Onishi said Russian guests often stay on island for two weeks and return to the same dining establishments every day.

The Russian market composes up to 10 percent of Tony Roma's and Capriciossa's total clientele, said Onishi.

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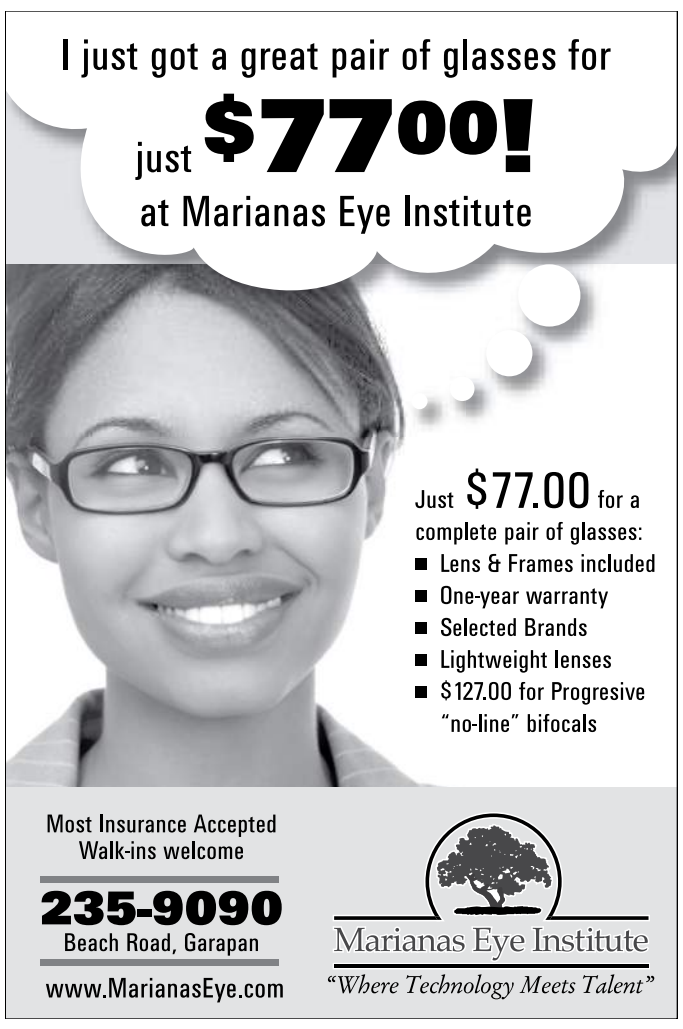

LABOR CHANGES POLICY ON BOND CLAIMS

Labor asks alien workers with awards to register

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By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In June last year, the Department of Labor encouraged alien workers to collect their administrative awards by filing small claims in the Superior Court.

Now Labor is notifying alien workers with administrative awards to go to the Labor Hearing Office to register their bond claims.

Acting Labor Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Labor was required to change its practices because of Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos' ruling relating to the bond issue.

Kaipat, however, stated that due to some reasons, many foreign workers will still be referred to the small claims court as Labor has been doing in the past.

Last March, Inos ruled that Labor has exclusive jurisdiction over alien workers attempting to collect on labor bonds and that the courts do not have the authority to enforce these bonds. Inos dismissed for lack of jurisdiction the consolidated small claims filed by 11 Chinese workers against two bonding companies.

Kaipat

The issue stems from a Labor advice to alien workers to file small claims in the Superior Court to recover the awards granted them by Labor against their employers.

Inos noted that the primary reason the workers are unable to recover the awards granted them by Labor is because Labor has thus far not attempted to enforce the insurance companies' obligations under the labor bonds.

Last Monday, Labor placed a one-page notice in this paper, notifying 129 alien workers who were awarded money damages by Labor but have not been paid to visit Labor's Complaint Intake Section.

In the notice, Labor asked the complainants to fill out a declaration affirming that payments have not been paid to them.

The workers were advised to bring a copy of their administrative orders and their entry permit card. The complainants are given until July 20, 2009, to report to the Complaint Intake Section.

Labor said awards in some of these cases may be covered by labor bonds.

When asked by *Saipan Tribune* about the notice, Kaipat said that Labor was not a party to the case in which Judge Inos issued his opinion so the department did not have a chance to explain why their policy of using the small claims court is the most effective and efficient way to get bond claims resolved.

"We also did not have a chance to appeal. Labor is hopeful that when the courts have a case in which Labor is a party and can present its view, the rule will change," Kaipat said.

The acting Labor Secretary, however, stated that for now the department must abide by Inos' ruling.

She said two more of the same notices will be issued over the summer.

Labor divided up the entire list so that their staff is not overloaded with many people trying to register at once.

Kaipat explained that a bond claim is entirely separate from a labor case.

"For that reason, a new proceeding must be started. In this new proceeding, under Judge Inos' ruling, the director of Labor brings a claim on behalf of the worker against the bonding company," she said.

In order to do this, Kaipat explained, the Labor director needs a sworn statement from the workers that the awards have not been paid. When a worker registers the bond claims, she said, a notice is provided to the bonding company, and a hearing is held. Kaipat said the director presents the worker's sworn statement that the award has not been paid, and the bonding company presents any defenses that it has.

"The Hearing Office issues an opinion. Either side may appeal to the Labor Secretary. Once the Secretary's opinion is issued, either party may appeal to the court. Then the bond claim will be in the court, where the department thinks all bond claims should be in the first place," she said.

Kaipat said the bonding companies are licensed by the Department of Commerce and that only the courts have the power to seize their assets and make them pay awards.

Kaipat cited three reasons why many alien workers will still be referred to small claims court: There is no bond; there is a bond but the worker's claim is covered only partially by the bond; and there is a bond, but the bond does not cover the award at all.

Last year, then federal ombudsman James Benedetto told *Saipan Tribune* that he refused to turn over to Labor his office's documents regarding the $6.1 million owed to hundreds of alien workers because Labor could provide no assurances that the data would not be used against the workers.

Benedetto said he wants assurances that the records would be used to go after the employers and bonding companies who owe the money, and not the workers.

Robert Myers, lawyer for 127 alien workers, has also filed a class action against Labor and some of its key officials over the same bonding issue.

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'IBPC not a recruitment base for guest workers'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The president of the International Business and Professional College defended the institution against allegations that it is being used as a recruitment base for foreign workers who are believed have entered the CNMI through the foreign student entry permits for many years.

"I can tell you that is not true," Herman Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday, adding that IBPC offers internship programs that are approved under Commonwealth statutes.

He said this is particularly true for nurses who are provided training at Saipan Health Clinic. After the training, it is up to the students to decide where they want to continue their training.

"But IBPC is not used as a recruitment base as claimed by certain individuals," he said.

The programs they offer foreigners, Sablan said, are in line with regulations by and between the CNMI government and IBPC.

Saipan Tribune learned that IBPC is one of the only two privately-owned postsecondary institutions that were first sanctioned and licensed by the NMI State Licensing Board. The other is the Eucon International School.

Sablan emphasized that IBPC only accepts students that are approved by the Office of Immigration, which previously handled the foreign student regulations of the Commonwealth.

Saipan Tribune learned that the IBPC population soared this year and the programs for professional services increased in demand. In 2008, IBPC posted 717 enrollees, including foreign students. As of this week, 225 have registered with the college.

'Only the less-fortunate countries to be affected by new regulation'

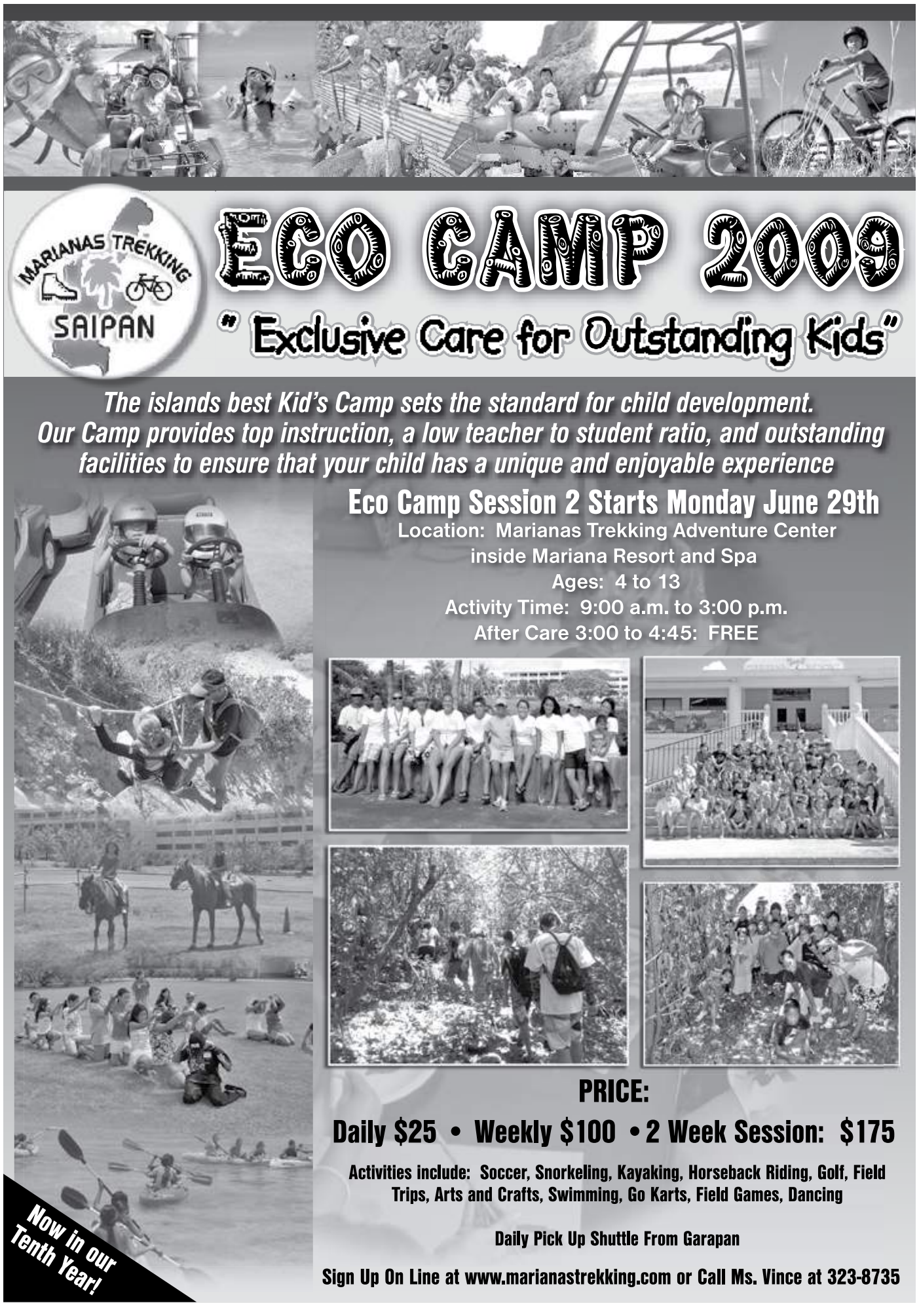
In light of new regulations imposed on foreign students, the IBPC president believes the greater impact would be on poorer countries that have students enrolled in CNMI schools.

"Personally, I feel that the regulation on the insurance would be difficult for less fortunate countries," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

On the health insurance requirement, Sablan is convinced that the policy should be in place but that it should be reasonable.

"The nationals who cannot afford insurance simply live day by day as they have saved to pay for their education. There should be some flexibility for adults who are here for studies, despite their origin," he added.

The IBPC president said the CNMI should not impose too many restrictions that could kill the islands' fledgling edu-tourism sector.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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 26, 2000

Teno presses for active campaign

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has ordered continuous public health campaign on the islands to raise awareness on food poisoning following the recent incident at a wedding reception that downed nearly 100 guests. He said he has asked the Department of Public Health to intensify its education campaign to prevent the incident from happening again. The governor earlier has banned entry of raw, pre-cooked or cooked food, especially seafood products, from the Federated States of Micronesia, where a cholera outbreak has been reported.

Battle for Hillblom fortune continues

Nearly three months since the distribution of the remaining assets of the multi-million estate of the late business tycoon Larry Hillblom to his heirs and their lawyers, the battle over his fortune continues in court. U.S. District Judge Alex R. Munson on Friday denied a motion for partial summary judgment sought by a lawyer for Junior Larry Hillbroom against the lawsuit brought by a New York-based journalist last April. He also ordered the plaintiff, Myron A. Farber, to file an amended complaint within 20 days to the case which came just a day before the CNMI Superior Court began on April 6 the process of dividing over $65 million of Mr. Hillblom's last assets.

June 26, 2001

Personnel chief relieved

The Civil Service Commission flexed its newly-restored powers over the Office of Personnel Management on Friday by relieving Mathilda "Keiko" Rosario as Personnel Officer. In a tersely-worded memorandum dated June 22, the commissioners, led by its chairman, Vicente M. Sablan, relieved Rosario of her post as chief of the Office of Personnel Management and appointed CSC Executive Director Norbert S. Sablan as acting personnel officer. The relief took effect immediately. This comes in the wake of the passage of Public Law 12-54 on June 20, which transferred jurisdiction over the OPM from the Office of the Governor to the CSC. This gave CSC the power to appoint the chief of OPM.

DPH may sever ties with Straub

The Department of Public Health is eyeing the possibility of breaking its ties with Straub Clinic and Hospital due to apprehensions that the health provider would continue to demand on-the-spot payment from CNMI referral patients. Medical Referral Office Administrator Joseph C. Santos said talks are underway at the Department of Public Health about whether to continue present arrangement with Straub, in light of some incidents where it allegedly turned away patients. The health department is said to be doing some serious thinking, as officials reportedly explore possibilities of a better alternative.

June 26, 2002

Heinz warns vs govt interference in Verizon sale

House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider cautioned yesterday against too much government interference in the sale of Verizon Pacifica to the Citadel consortium. Although he conceded that security questions remain a legitimate concern, Hofschneider said too much government intervention in what is basically a private business transaction could result in a deterioration of services or an escalation of service rates. At the same time, Hofschneider clarified that the comments submitted by six House of Representatives lawmakers to the Federal Communications Commission was not the official position of the lower chamber.

Saying no to get a yes

Yes, the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication did agree to ask for an extension of the Federal Communications Commission deadline to submit comments on the sale of Verizon Pacifica to the Citadel Holdings consortium. However, the committee's submission opposing the sale was also correct, in that the proper procedure to ask for the extension was to word it that way, based on the advice of Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission executive director Adam Turner. Thus explained Sen. Diego M. Songao yesterday, in reaction to concerns raised by Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero, who had pointed out to the PUTC Chair that what the committee had agreed on last June 17 was different from the eventual submission that was submitted to the FCC.

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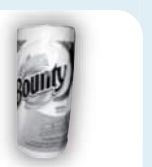

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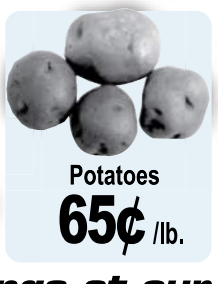

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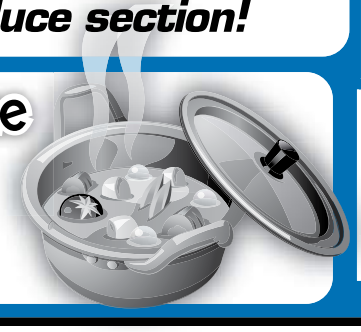

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EDITORIAL

A shift on Iran

The political crisis in Iran will not end anytime soon. Though the government has managed, through brute force and uncounted killings, to drive most protesters from Tehran's streets for now, the popular opposition movement remains very much alive. The split between hard-liners and relative moderates at the most senior levels of power, too, is open and unresolved. The huge stakes of this struggle and the likelihood that it will persist for weeks or months require a fundamental change in U.S. posture. To his credit, President Obama began to deliver it this week.

The president's first and most important step was to side unambiguously with the Iranian people who "stand up for justice" and against "the threats, the beatings and imprisonments" delivered by the beleaguered regime of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He said he had watched the video of Neda Agha Soltan, the young woman whose brutal slaying has been broadcast across the Internet, calling it "searing" and "heartbreaking." He said: "It's important for us to make sure that—that we let the Iranian people know that we are watching what's happening, that they are not alone in this process."

Mr. Obama also took an important step back from the administration's plans to seek an early dialogue with Mr. Khamenei and his hardline disciple, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. "What's happened in Iran is profound, and we're still waiting to see how it plays itself out," he said. As newly described by the president, engagement is not an initiative from the United States but "a path available to Iran" that is linked to "how they handle the dissent within their own country." So far, as the president noted, "what we've seen ... is not encouraging in terms of the path that this regime may choose to take."

In making this shift Mr. Obama did not necessarily yield to the Republican senators who have been criticizing him for softness; nor did he return to the Bush administration's policy of isolating Iran. Instead, he was embracing the reality of what has happened over the past few days. The popular uprising, if it continues, could bring about an extraordinary change in Iran and across the Middle East. Even an advantage to the relative moderates among the clerical elite could lead to an easing of regional tensions—if not necessarily an end to the Iranian nuclear program. On the other hand, if Mr. Khamenei succeeds in restoring order by force, the already-slim prospect of rapprochement with the West would be reduced to the vanishing point, whatever the administration's tactics.

Mr. Obama was careful not to rule out recognition of a new government under Mr. Ahmadinejad, and he refused to spell out what the eventual consequences of its brutality might be. But his shift of attitude was important. There may not be much the United States can do to help the cause of freedom in Iran, other than offer moral support; but it could deliver a crippling blow to that movement if it legitimizes Mr. Khamenei through an early diplomatic engagement. As the president said, "The most important thing for the Iranian government to consider is legitimacy in the eyes of its own people, not in the eyes of the United States." As urgent as it is to address the threat of Tehran's nuclear program, the United States and its allies must support Iran's popular movement as long as it has life.

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By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

The airy-fairy realm of economics has its importance, I guess, but lately I'm more concerned about the more practical end of things. You probably are, too. One result of the CNMI's continued economic squeeze is that many folks have to make due with really old computers, and some people are locked out of the cyber-realm entirely. And, heck, I know one company on Saipan that was, at last glance, still using a 1980s vintage Apple (an incredible computer). Unfortunately, the art of keeping old computers is not a popular one in the media.

I just set up a 7-year-old Toshiba notebook computer for someone. It was so old the original owner simply gave it away after wiping the data off the hard drive. (It did have an after-market PC-card wireless setup, incidentally). My task as a volunteer was to set it up on a budget of zero. By using good freeware, not only could I set it up for free, it actually runs quite well and surfs the Web just fine. Indeed, freeware is often better than the bloated commercial stuff out there. Free, light, and nimble, what's not to like?

One good way to start reviving an old computer (if it's slowing down) is to backup your data, wipe the hard drive clean, reinstall the operating system, then reload your data. If this isn't your bag, a friendly geek can easily tell you if it's worth the effort.

Here is a list of six great programs, all of them free, for Windows XP machines. This isn't some drive-by list; I've been using most of this stuff for years. Lesson learned: You don't have to sink one dime into software in order to have a basically functional and secure computer, and avoiding commercial bloatware can add new zest to an old machine.

1. Avast
Avast.com

This security software never seems to get the top ranking from anti-virus test reports, but it's very lightweight and I like it.

2. ZoneAlarm
ZoneLabs.com

ZoneAlarm is one of the big names in firewalls. I think it's somewhat out of fashion with the serious techies these days, but I just keep using it. Incidentally, there are reported conflicts between ZoneAlarm and Avast, but on setup Avast takes this into account and allows you to configure it accordingly.

3. WinPatrol
WinPatrol.com

This great utility allows you to, among other things, prevent selected programs from loading themselves on start up. It's a great way to keep old computers (and new computers, for that matter) from bogging down.

4. Firefox
Mozilla.org

I have more faith in this browser than I do in Explorer. There's no reason not to use it.

5. OpenOffice
OpenOffice.org

This is, incredibly enough, a free suite that mimics Microsoft's Word, Excel, etc. It comes from Sun Microsystems, a very big company.

6. Ccleaner
Ccleaner.com

This utility keeps your hard drive cleaned up, and even cleans up your registry. Registry cleaning is a dangerous job, so many experts are against using a program to do it. But I'm no expert, so I merrily use this with impunity.

■■■

There are many folks on Saipan who need computers but can't afford them. Maybe some older but serviceable computers can be cleaned up, set up, and put in the hands of folks who can use them. I've mentioned Windows XP stuff because I'm familiar with it, but I'm sure that Saipan's Linux community has some good ideas as well.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

No loopholes under labor law

By JACINTA M. KAIPAT
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jacinta Kaipat is the Deputy Secretary of the CNMI Department of Labor.

I write to respond to the several letters that have appeared in the press about citizens who are unable to find jobs. There are no loopholes under the labor law, as has been repeatedly suggested.

PL 15-108 benefits local applicants

The new labor law fixed very significant problems for local applicants under the old law and extended protections to ensure that local applicants know about and get preference for jobs in the Commonwealth. PL 15-108 provides a new remedy – damages in the amount of six months' wages – in the event that a citizen is passed over for hiring by an employer who renewed or hired a foreign worker. Our Hearing Office mediates these complaints and offers prompt hearings on all complaints. I urge any citizen who thinks that he or she has been to come to the Labor Department and file a complaint. The staff of the Hearing Office will help you fill out the complaint form. Our investigators will go out and gather the employer's records to present at a hearing. PL 15-108 provided this protection specifically in order to guard against the kind of problems about which the letter-writers complain.

Individual problems

In order to try to solve the individual problems at hand as expeditiously as possible, I looked at our records with respect to applications filed by the letter writers to see if we could help with their applications. I found that none of the letter writers save three had used our system—at least under the names that they used when they wrote to the press. (Mr./Ms. Loly A. Sablan and Mr. Kelvin A. Aldan never used our system to apply for a job online. Mr. Greg Magofna used the system once, back in January. Mr. Gregorio Cruz and Mr. Willie Brundidge, Jr. have used the system many times.) I looked at our complaint files to determine if any of the letter-writers had used the protection that PL 15-108 offers citizens in cases where a foreign worker has been hired or renewed over a qualified citizen. None had except for one.

No waivers

There are no waivers of the workforce participation requirement or the job preference requirement under PL 15-108. All waivers were abolished. Waivers were granted based on subjective standards. Under prior law, there were hundreds of waivers granted to employers that allowed them to hire foreign workers when they were not in compliance with our workforce participation requirements or our job preference requirements. Those who long for the "old days" remember a time of full employment when these waivers did not matter much because citizens were employed by the government or private- sector jobs were available.

Advertising renewals yields jobs for citizens

The letter-writers ask why we require employers to advertise jobs where the employer hopes to renew a foreign worker. The simple answer is that advertising renewals helps create jobs for locals. During the 12 months after April 2008, approximately 600 locals took jobs that were intended as renewals for foreign workers. In the past, there have been renewals of foreign workers where no local applicant was available. But now, for example, Tony Pellegrino's training program is producing local applicants with carpentry, plumbing, electrician and other skills that were not in the job market before. When a renewal in one of those categories comes up, we are now training local applicants with the skills to claim these jobs and they are successful in doing so.

Incentive exemption

The letter-writers ask why we have an incentive exemption, and they blame the exemption for shutting locals out of jobs. The answer is that we have the exemption in order to encourage businesses to hire locals and the exemption actually *creates* good jobs for locals; it does not shut locals out. This came about as a result of a year-long study led by the Public Auditor's Office, which recommended that the Legislature ultimately adopt this Incentive Exemption as it opens up those jobs paying more than the minimum wage to qualified locals. In order to give businesses that hire local workers in good jobs some competitive reward, PL 15-108 allowed a limited incentive exemption. The incentive exemption can be claimed only when an employer has reached the performance benchmark in hiring locals well above that required by the workforce participation provision.

Phasing out of the incentive exemption

The Legislature gave the Labor Department the regulatory power to phase out the incentive exemption, and the Department has been doing that over time since PL 15-108 was enacted. Four months ago, the Department began a consulting process with respect to further proposed changes in the exemption. It is very important that labor regulations not cause businesses the kind of increased costs and burdens that contribute to closures. If we do that, we lose jobs forever. After taking into considerations the comments we got in the informal consultation process, in May, the Department proposed regulations that would increase the performance benchmark to 50% (from 35%) U.S. citizen employment in designated job categories in order to qualify for the exemption, and that would limit the job categories to which the exemption applies. Those regulations go into effect on July 1, 2009. This change will cut back the exemption.

Small business exemption

The letter-writers complain about the small business exemption, which allows businesses with fewer than five employees relief from the job preference requirements. At the time PL 15-108 was enacted (and today), the concern of the Legislature was that small businesses both fail more quickly, thus eliminating jobs, and are the engine of recovery from an economic depression because they start up more quickly when the economy turns around. The Legislature wanted to encourage small businesses. For the same reason, legislators in the House have recently proposed allowing small businesses relief from the gross receipts tax.

Phasing out of the small business exemption

The Legislature gave the Labor Department the regulatory power to phase out the small business exemption, and the Department has been doing that over time since PL 15-108 was enacted. Last year, I issued a notice that required all retail businesses that accept food stamps to have at least one U.S. citizen employee. This opened up about 100 jobs for U.S. citizens. This year, we have increased the requirement so that all small businesses of any kind must have at least one full-time U.S. citizen employee. This change will cut back the exemption.

Standards

One important feature of PL 15-108 was to eliminate discretionary waivers and require that exemptions be based on objective standards set out in regulations. The Director of Employment Services enforces standards rigorously. An employer either qualifies for an exemption or does not. We do not do favors for anyone. All employers are measured by the same standards. The system is fair and effective in meeting competing interests of preserving businesses and jobs and, at the same time, ensuring citizen access to available jobs.

Enforcement

The Director of Employment Services and the Director of Labor have effective processes in place to enforce the requirements of PL 15-108 that provide U.S. citizens preference for available jobs. Citizen complaints are investigated and those who violate the law are prosecuted under agency cases brought by the Director of Labor. The Hearing Office deals quickly with any complaints from citizens that a foreign worker has been hired over a qualified citizen. Whatever may have been complaints about enforcement in past Administrations, these people are dedicated civil servants doing their jobs well.

See LOOPHOLES on Page 13

Letter to the Editor

Kudos

I want to offer a special and sincere kudos to Rep. Tina Sablan for winning the court battle to expose the funding source of the governor's lawsuit because it is indeed his lawsuit and not the people's. You have performed a valuable public service on behalf of the people and the Legislature. I'm sure the average citizen can't wait to find out who funded the lawsuit even though most of us already have a pretty good idea who supplied the money. You have cleared the smoke screen and exposed the devil in the details for all of us to see. I knew you would win because it really didn't take a judge to recognize the oxymoron that totally defied logic and common sense. Everyone with common sense knew the governor could not publicly file a lawsuit for the people and against the will of the people and still keep the funding source a secret from the people—duh! Keep up the good work and I pray you will be able to help with the genuine need for education reform to improve the governance system within PSS.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Don't go blind from diabetes

By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD is the co-founder and medical director of Marianas Eye Institute. He is the author of the book, *World Peace, a Blind Wife, and Gecko Tails*, which is available on Amazon.com and at Marianas Eye Institute. Dr. Khorram can reached by email by visiting www.Marianas-Eye.com, or by phone at 670-235-9090. © David Khorram, 2009.

Mr. Camacho is blind from diabetes. He can't walk into a room by himself; he has to wait for someone to take his hand and guide him. He cannot see the food on his plate; he has to find it with his hands. When he wakes up, he doesn't know if it's night, or if the day has dawned. He will never see the faces of his children again; he'll only hear their voices. Mr. Camacho did not expect to be blind at age 54. Even a year ago, he didn't imagine that he would be blind today. How did this happen to Mr. Camacho? How can you prevent it from happening to you?

I have spent years taking care of thousands of people with diabetic eye disease. Some of them never develop diabetic eye problems. Others develop the disease, and never go blind. Still others tragically lose their sight. What distinguishes these people? What makes some people go blind and others not?

Some people have relentless diabetes that strangles the vision no matter what we do. But these people are rare. Very rare. For most of the people who go blind, the cause of their blindness isn't so much their diabetes, but their fear. Fear paralyses many people (perhaps you) from getting the treatment they need. Fear makes them want to ignore their problems, hoping the problems will just go away.

Over the years, I have found that the more people know about diabetic eye disease—the more they understand diabetes and how it causes blindness—the less fear they have. It's knowledge that conquers the fear. The fear may not completely go away, but my patients who are armed with knowledge are able to take action even though they have fear. This is what courage means to me. Courage isn't about having no fear. It's about taking action even though you are afraid.

Diabetic eye disease can be difficult to understand. The only opportunity you may have to learn about it is from your doctor. But in a doctor's office, time can be limited. And if you're like me, even when the doctor explains things completely, the minute I leave the doctor's office, I forget half of what was said. Over the next few weeks, I hope to explain some of the basics of diabetic eye disease, and how you can preserve your vision.

I don't want you to go blind. I want to give you enough knowledge so that you can take the action you need, and so that you can understand what is happening with your eyes. I want you to be able to understand the types of treatment recommended, and to be able to ask the important questions. I also want to look at some questions that might be on your mind, but that you might not want to ask. Questions like, why did this happen to me?

The first step, the one that you may be neglecting, is to get your eyes examined at least once a year. You can take this action today, right now. It is the first step to finding the problems that can lead to blindness and treating them before it's too late. Pick up the phone and schedule an eye exam, or just walk in. You can do this while you are learning more about the disease over the next few weeks.

I know your sight is precious to you, just as it was to Mr. Camacho. I know you might be afraid. I also know that you have courage and can take action even though you are afraid. Don't let diabetes blind you. Take the first step today by getting your eye exam.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

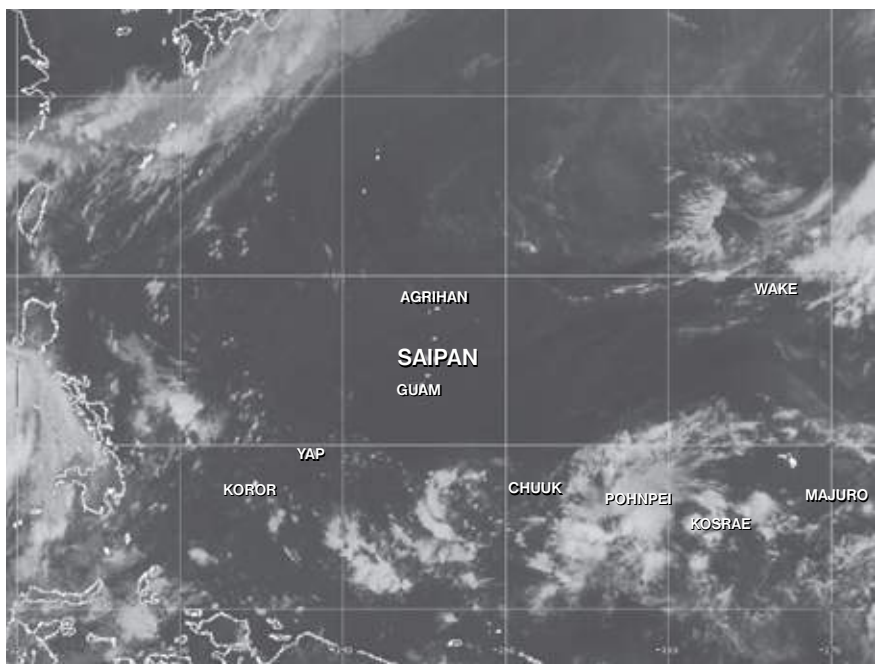
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲63	▼54
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲93	▼75
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼74
London	Showers	▲77	▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼64
Manila	Rain	▲85	▼78
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲60	▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼75
New York	Thundershowers	▲87	▼70
Osaka	Cloudy	▲85	▼70
Paris	Rain	▲81	▼60
Pusan	Sunny	▲87	▼68
Rome	Cloudy	▲84	▼63
Salem	Sunny	▲75	▼48
San Francisco	Sunny	▲70	▼55
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼66
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲88	▼73
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲92	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeastward from EQ157E to end at 10N167E. Trade-wind convergence near the trough axis is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands between 3N and 10N from 155E to 176E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Chuuk within 75 miles of 8N149E and northeast of Majuro within 75 miles of a line from 12N178E to 10N179E. North of Wake Island a cold front arcs southwestward from 25N171E to 22N167E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found along and up to 150 miles ahead of the front.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:30 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
9:13 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:37 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
11:39 PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:08 AM	8:01 PM
Saturday	10:07 AM	10:43 PM
Sunday	11:03 AM	11:23 PM
Monday	11:56 AM	
Tuesday	12:49 PM	12:03 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Letters to the Editor

No more threats, no more silence

On June 19, 2009, my son was placed at the EF section in the adult correctional facility to serve his one-month sentence that was ordered by the CNMI Superior Court. He requested that he be moved from that section since one of the inmates was threatening him and for safety reasons. The officer didn't respond to his complaint and instead he was told to go back inside his room. My son got upset and showed the officer one of the most popular finger expressions. The C.E.R.T. Team was called and he was slammed to the floor, secured with shackles strapped around him, and was repeatedly slammed to the wall. He was then sent to the isolation room.

While in there, two correction officers were assigned to monitor the safety of my son. Instead of ensuring his safety, the two officers assaulted and battered my son. He was strapped to a chair and slapped around. My son was slapped not only with their hands but using handcuffs as a weapon to slap my son's face. As this was happening, he said he was threatened to be poked in the eyes with their fingers. The sergeant's last words to my son were, "This prison is mine; I can do whatever I want." The other officer hit him a final time and left him with blood dripping from his ears. He was left alone for about an hour in the isolation room.

Is this what happens to our children when they are placed in the custody of corrections officers? This institution is supposed to be in compliance with the Department of Justice's consent decree mandate for order, health, care and safety requirements. The two officers who used excessive force and brutality on my son are a ranking sergeant and correction officer II.

The following day, as a result of this brutal attack by the two officers, my son was brought to the hospital's emergency room for treatment. My concern is, why did they have to wait until the next day to give him medical treatment? He was beaten by the people who are supposed to be responsible for his safety and the safety of others. I fear for the protection and safety of my son. Anything could happen to him. It is frightening that the most trusted persons by the public are the ones causing injury to our loved ones. What assurance is there for my child's safety and protection when officers themselves are not given professional training in the care and safety of all inmates.

I am pleading with the Secretary of the Department of Correction to take action in weeding out those officers who are not professionally fit to work as a correctional officer in safeguarding our families who are serving time. My son is only serving his 30-day sentence for an assault and battery case. He is not even halfway through his sentence and this happens? By the time his 30 days is over, will I have him in one piece or will he be limping out of the gates or will he be returned to me disabled or dead?

The most fearful thing was to hear my son stating that the officers had threatened that he would be beaten up again if he reports this incident to the proper authorities. These kinds of threats and silence in the facility must end. This administration has to change if it cannot find an individual who is not willing to clean up government abuses and corruption and place a competent and qualified individual who would be accountable and responsible in assuring that the facility is safe. The public is entitled to an honest government free from corruption and employees abusing inmates.

Jenny Mae Palacios
Dandan, Saipan

Open letter

I understand that all of us are being promised the same dream that we are going to receive our retroactive money. To tell you the truth, when you are only one in the lower house it's very difficult to move legislation, especially when it deals with money. We have been waiting for such a dream but if you do not have the support of all your colleagues, then I assure you that the bill will not materialize. With all due respect, we all need the money but with the situation of the government, I don't think that we can be assisted. Regarding your comment that the congressman is running for mayor, I do understand that we would choose the right person to lead our beautiful island of Rota and I respect your decision, but who would be the right person to come up and say, "Once I am sworn in, I can start moving"? I would say that only one person would stand on his feet and say it. Choose the right person that you think feeds your decision. I know that you can make that right decision. Be wise and let's help one another.

Dexter T. Apatang
Sinapalo I, Rota

The President's assorted czars

It is unsettling that our country may have taken different paradigms in dealing with her colossal economic crisis. The president's assorted czars, some without the requisite credentials, set the stage for a meteoric rise in deficit spending beyond historic proportions.

It is equally concerning that most people seem to have been inoculated with endorphin as to walk around with apathy right in the middle of a huge storm. Or is it the tiring frustration of trying to figure out puzzles that are beyond the realm of a layman's perception of highly complex issues?

Perhaps most are mesmerized or petrified by the President's superb speaking skills that leave even fully credentialed and eloquent conservatives with dropped jaws. Or is more like eloquence being music to their ears as to temporarily shove aside reality check? It seems herein lies the acquiescence, "It's so messy and huge it isn't supposed to fail."

Meanwhile, the national GOP is without leadership. Emerging and promising champions in conservatism have been derailed by their subscription to keeping spare pantyhose away from the family home.

But I am still troubled by the lack of relevant credentials for some of the president's czars. Fortunately, we aren't in mainstream America and are spared the ravages of partaking in the repayment of huge mountains of debts for generations to come. It's just a thought for casual discussion on a sultry afternoon right in our side of the Pacific Divide.

John S. DelRosario, Jr.
As Gonno

LOOPHOLES

From Page 11

It is not possible to satisfy everyone. Some citizens will not find jobs for reasons that employers find compelling and that are not prohibited by law. Anyone who has hired any kind of employee, even a houseworker, knows that there are certain important traits that employers want to see in employees. The Labor Department is doing a good job in assisting U.S. citizens to find and take advantage of the job opportunities available to them that they are qualified for. We have come a long way over the past three years, and we continue to look for ways to improve. I welcome citizen comments. My e-mail address is depsec2@gmail.com.

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Test OK'd for bilingual instructors to be deemed HQT

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bilingual educators in public schools will now have the chance to become highly qualified and receive equal compensation with classroom teachers after the Board of Education and the Public School System agreed to formulate its own standard test to measure their knowledge of the Chamorro and Carolinian languages.

Based on existing highly qualified requirements set by the board, bilingual instructors don't have the opportunity to enjoy the same privileges being received by other school mentors because bilingual subjects do not require passing the Praxis tests.

There are three HQT requirements—degree, valid certification, and Praxis. Without the Praxis, Chamorro/Carolinian instructor cannot be classified an HQT despite acquiring the necessary degree and valid certifications.

Board of Education vice chair Herman T. Guerrero disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that a decision was made to bring the instructors' classification to a higher level.

"In the absence of Praxis—as part of the HQT requirements—it's only logical to develop our own test for our bilingual instructors so they could also receive a deserving salary for their services," Guerrero said.

This week, a summer institute is being conducted at Kagman High School where all bilingual instructors are enrolled.

Guerrero said the test, which was formulated by experts in both languages, will be taken by the instructors after their summer program.

The intention, Guerrero said, is to give a chance to instructors to be included in the HQT Compensation Plan, which provides up to $47,000 in annual pay for teachers who meet the maximum requirements.

"If they have the degree, certification…and they pass this test we can classify them as HQT and they will be paid under the same compensation plan for teachers," Guerrero explained.

He described the current situation of instructors as "unfair."

'13 instructors get certification'

Of the roughly 50 bilingual educators at PSS, only 13 have so far earned the required certification to be recognized as an instructor.

There are three classifications for instructors: Instructor 1 (high school graduates and have at least two years experience as teacher aides or associate degree) is paid $28,784 annually.

Instructor 2 (high school graduates with 30-hour credits of approved professional education courses toward completing an associate degree) gets $34,211 per year.

Instructor 3, which the PSS has yet to have, gets the maximum per annum salary, depending on their work experience.

Saipan Tribune learned that most of the 50 bilingual educators are considered under instructor 1 position, while only 13 fall under the instructor 2 position.

PSS requires educators under instructor 3 positions to have at least 24 years of experience as teacher aides.

Local artists shine at Made in the Marianas Festival

BY ANITA B. HOFSCHNEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Close to 20 vendors displayed a variety of local products at the Made in the Marianas Festival last Wednesday, June 24. Although the products arrayed were diverse, ranging from jewelry and pottery to food and apparel, they all shared a common trait: everything was made in the CNMI.

"We wanted to showcase local vendors," said Frankie Eliptico on Wednesday. Eliptico is the president of Off the Beaten Path, a local nonprofit organization that put the event together. Proceeds from the event will go to the NMI Museum, where the event took place.

RELATED NEWS
For related photographs, see Page 19.

One such local vendor was Emy Atalig Bugarin, who came from Tinian to sell her necklaces and earrings made with seeds gathered from the jungle.

Bugarin explained how she cooked, poked, and preserved *pugua* and *tangan-tangan* seeds to create these accessories.

Because she primarily sells her handiwork at special arts fairs, Bugarin said she was pleased that the festival was taking place.

Another exhibitor, Leslie Ware, agreed.

"Anything that can bring local artists together is good," said Ware on Wednesday.

Ware displayed vibrant photos of local sunsets, birds, and flora. Other products at the festival included "Fotten Gaga" t-shirts sold by Dexter Mendiola, *apigigi* offered by Tun Goru, and ceramics from Marianas Pottery.

Ernie David, an artist originally from the Philippines, displayed meticulous paintings of local birds and flowers that he had drawn on leaves.

At the beginning of the event on Wednesday evening, David expressed optimism about how it would turn out.

"I think it will be good," he said.

According to Eliptico, David's confidence was not misplaced.

"We're very pleased with the number of people who showed up," said Eliptico yesterday.

Eliptico said that at this time there are no definite plans to host the event again. However, he said OBP is considering making the event an annual or bi-annual occurrence based on the positive feedback they received.

"We need more of these social events that feature our very own people," said John Bolis Gonzales, one of the event's attendees, on Wednesday evening. "We need to celebrate our people."

Off the Beaten Path, founded in 2005, hosts a diversity of events to increase awareness about social issues and raise money for various charities. Previous events include a production of the Vagina Monologues in March 2006 and a golf tournament in October 2008.

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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF WHEELCHAIR RAMP/LIFT
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Procurement and Delivery of three (3) new aircraft ramps, one each to the Saipan International Airport, Tinian International Airport and Rota International Airport.

The scope of work entails the purchase and delivery of one (1) wheelchair ramp/lift with the capability to and from an aircraft for each airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, June 19, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all shipping costs and taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Procurement and Delivery of Wheelchair Ramp/Lift to the Saipan International Airport, Tinian International Airport and Rota International Airport". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than ***4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, JULY 20, 2009***, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 18, 2009

Special Mass for Ginoza

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The late Choken Ginoza speaks during his recent visit to the islands.

Friends of the late Choken Ginoza are inviting the public to a special Mass in memory of the honorary ambassador of Northern Mariana Islands.

The Mass will be held on Tuesday, June 30, at 9am at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan, Saipan.

A long-standing and influential supporter of tourism in the CNMI, Ginoza died on June 16, 2009, in Okinawa. He was responsible for bringing thousands of visitors to the islands of Saipan and Tinian from Okinawa through his affiliation with the Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa, an association of Okinawans born in Micronesia during the Japanese era of administration. The association returns annually to the CNMI to pay respects to the dead and pray for world peace.

The Mass is expected to be attended by family members, CNMI dignitaries, business associates, students who have participated in cultural exchange programs Ginoza helped organize, and personal friends.

A member of MRA since its establishment in 1948, Ginoza was also involved in building the memorial Tower of Okinawa in Saipan in 1968 and Tower of Okinawa in Tinian in 1978. He became Managing Director of Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa in 1970 and has served as chairman since 1986.

Ginoza was named the CNMI's first honorary citizen by CNMI Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in 1990. In 1998, he was further honored by being named an honorary ambassador by Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA). Ginoza's other lifetime recognitions include an appreciation certificate from the governor of Okinawa Prefecture in 1990 for his contribution to the Micronesia memorial service and international friendship between Micronesia and Okinawa, an appreciation certificate in 1994 from the Okinawa of Bereaved Families Association, and a diploma of appreciation from the governor of Okinawa in 2005 for his devotion to Micronesia Memorial service mission.

For more information, contact Gordon Marciano of Pacific Development Inc. at 287-1195. ***(MVA)***

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FOR CBP PROJECT NO. CPA-009-CBP

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The design services are to assist the CPA in preparation of its facilities at all airports and seaport on the three (3) islands, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for the US Customs Border Protection (CBP).

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below: (This project is primarily an architectural type project)

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to projects federally funded in whole or in part;
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the federally funded projects;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable. Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 17, 2009**.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
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/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 25, 2009

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Motions in Rydlyme case placed under advisement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday placed under advisement the remaining motions filed by former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos in the Rydlyme corruption case.

After listening to the arguments by the defense and prosecution, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson said he is not ready to rule on the defendants' motion for judgment of acquittal or new trial and a motion for a new trial.

Munson said he will issue a written decision.

The courtroom was filled yesterday with jurors and alternate jurors as well as some government witnesses.

The jurors and government witnesses appeared in court after lawyers for Villagomez and the Santos couple subpoenaed them to testify for the evidentiary hearing, if there is any, in connection with their motions.

They were later asked to leave the courtroom after the prosecution and the defense agreed that they should be excused since the arguments will be on preliminary matters only.

The prosecution also subpoenaed former Gov. Pedro Tenorio and his wife Sophia. The court allowed the Tenorio couple to stay as the prosecution did not object to their presence in court.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeff Strand earlier told the court that since the defense opened up the issue about calls regarding juror-witness relationship during a gathering in the house of one

Villagomez

of the children of the Tenorios, the prosecution should be allowed to ask the Tenorios about what happened that day.

Before listening to the arguments on the motion for judgment of acquittal or new trial, Munson informed Guam lawyer David J. Lujan, lead counsel for Villagomez, that he already read all the documents filed in the motions "multiple times."

Munson asked Lujan and the other counsel to focus their arguments on matters that were not in the motions.

"I don't think that we need to repeat everything," the judge said.

Despite this, Lujan spent more than an hour presenting his argument.

Lujan stated that after the jury verdict on April 24, the defense received information that at least five jurors and one alternate juror were related to key government witnesses or a government investigator who assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In the U.S. government's response, Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley questioned why the defense lawyers waited until the guilty verdict before conducting an investigation into alleged juror relationship to some witnesses in the case.

O'Malley argued in the pleadings that assuming that the defendants' genealogical survey is accurate, the U.S. government nonetheless takes issue with the defendants' bald assertion that each juror was aware of their alleged relationships to witnesses.

O'Malley asserted that the question is whether the jurors responded (or remained silent) as they did with dishonest intent.

In his oral arguments, Lujan cited a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that states that when presented with evidence of jury misconduct, the court has no choice but to hold a new trial.

Lujan said their position is that the jurors heard the court's instructions and chose not to respond to questions before the trial whether they are related to any potential witnesses.

The lawyer said three of the jurors did not answer the court's collective question regarding relationship. He explained how some jurors are related to some of the government's witnesses.

"The issue of the relationship to the witnesses is important point because the court kept asking the questions," Lujan stressed.

The Guam lawyer said the jurors not answering intentionally is tantamount to lying.

Munson later defined the word "lie" for Lujan. "A false answer doesn't mean a lie. A lie has to have the intent to deceive," the judge said.

But Lujan insisted on calling it a lie. "Certain jurors were not honest in their answers," Lujan said.

Lujan reminded Munson that he recused one juror during the trial after the defense brought to his attention her relationship to a government witness.

"In this case we are talking about seven jurors," Lujan said, referring to jurors who were allegedly related to some witnesses.

Victorino Torres, counsel for James Santos, said the court on eight different occasions asked the jurors to disclose, if they have any, their relationship to the witnesses.

Torres also explained how some jurors are related to some witnesses and that in one case, he said, the prosecution was aware of it.

"The defendants are entitled to 12 fair and impartial jurors, not 10 or 9 or 8," Torres said.

Ramon Quichocho, counsel for Joaquina Santos, said this case is not only about the court, the parties, and the lawyers, but it is also about the U.S. Constitution.

Quichocho said even the court acknowledged that a second cousin relationship is a close relationship when it excused one juror.

Quichocho suggested that if the court is not convinced with their evidence, then the court should conduct a hearing where they can examine the jurors and witnesses.

O'Malley briefly argued. "I want to state that I had no knowledge of any of this relationship prior to the filing of motions," O'Malley said.

He said their primary goal is only to have fair and impartial jurors.

O'Malley said if the court wants a further hearing, it should be held in chamber or not open to the public as there is a need to protect the jurors and not embarrass them.

NRCS to discuss details of $4.15M Kagman watershed

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service is set to discuss some of the details of the $4.15 million Kagman watershed project next week with its local partners in the CNMI.

The meeting will be held at the project site on July starting at 10:30am after an ocular inspection of the site.

The new money is part of the economic stimulus funding provided under President' Barack Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

NCRS and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources will provide an overview of the project at the corner of Kagman and Chacha Roads.

To be present are NRCS director of the Pacific Islands Area Lawrence Yamamoto, NRCS State Conservation engineer Jeffrey Wheaton, NRCS civil engineer Timothy Brasuell, and NRCS district conservationist James Eller.

CNMI officials include DLNR Secretary Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, CNMI director of the Division of Agriculture Richard Seman, CNMI chairman of the Soil and Water Conservation District Isidoro Cabrera, and CNMI Treasurer of the Soil and Water Conservation District Ignacio Cabrera.

Brasuell said the meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the logistics and the details of the partnership arrangements such as issues on land rights.

He said there will also be discussions on the design and construction and that this meeting is part of the economic stimulus requirements.

"We are here to provide them information about the project so that they are fully aware of what's going to happen," he said.

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-08

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for general improvements to be made to the departure and arrival terminals at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of, but are not limited to, electrical stub-out extensions aluminum storefront door and window system, sanitary sewer system, including grease trap interceptors, air-conditioning of VIP Lounge at new terminal, installation of rollup conveyor doors, replacement of automatic doors and aluminum storefront system at existing terminal building, lightning protection and grounding system, repainting work at existing terminal, baggage handling conveyor system, replacement of existing wooden fascia at the existing terminal building, replacement of roof tiles and waterproofing of existing terminal building roof, new furniture for departure terminal, renovation of restrooms at existing terminal building, renovation of storefront door leading to apron side at existing terminal building, general renovation to newly completed terminal departure building, and fencing of transformer area.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below: (This project is primarily an architectural type project).

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to projects federally funded in whole or in part;
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the federally funded projects;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable. Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 24, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 25, 2009

EPA can give mitigation grant funds for impacted coral reefs

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency can provide grants for impacted coral reefs and wetlands in the form of compensatory mitigation plans, according to a presentation by Wendy Wiltse of the EPA Pacific Islands contact office Region 9 based in Hawaii.

Wiltse said mitigation plans will provide funding opportunities for environment groups such as the Micronesian Conservation Trust based in the Federated States of Micronesia and programs such as the Micronesian Challenge.

In fact, EPA Region 9 has just committed to joining the Micronesian Challenge, first announced during Wednesday's session of the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference at the Lilac Room of the Saipan World Resort.

The Clean Water Act, Wiltse said, is the regulating process for such compensatory plans. The objective is to restore and maintain not only the physical but also the chemical and biological diversity of the impacted coral reefs or wetland areas.

For instance, Wiltse said, there is a plan to build a port for aircraft carrier ships at the Apra Harbor in Guam as part of the impending military buildup there. She said coral reefs would be affected by this project.

Compensatory mitigation would be required to replace the loss of wetland and aquatic resource functions in the watershed, she said. This will involve restoration, establishment, enhancement or in certain circumstances preservation of wetlands, streams or other aquatic resources for the purpose of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts.

Compensatory mitigation is actually the third step in a sequence of actions that must be followed to offset impacts to aquatic resources.

A 1990 memorandum of understanding between EPA and the Department of the Army establishes a three-part process, known as the mitigation sequence to help guide mitigation decisions and determine the type and level of mitigation required under Clean Water Act Section 404 regulations.

This involves project objectives, site selection factors, site protection, baseline information at impact and mitigation site, credit methodology, work plan, maintenance plans, performance standards, monitoring requirements, long term management plan, adaptive management plan and financial assurance.

For more information on the regulations visit their website at www.epa.gov/wetlandsmitigation/#regs. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

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NMHC

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NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
for
PROGRAM YEAR 2009
and
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
This ad is paid for by HUD Funds.

The government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands expects an allocation of $1,386,572 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $647,474 Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $62,844 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2009 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) meet urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires grant recipients to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG-funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financial assistance, site acquisition, or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

In order to plan ahead as to the use(s) of the PY 2009 allocation which is expected within the next few months, the NMHC which administers the CPD program on behalf of the CNMI government, will be conducting hearings to obtain public input on community development and housing needs, and to provide information to the public on the status of the approved ongoing CDBG projects. The public hearings will be held as follows:

1. **On Rota, July 8, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the CDA/NMHC Office, Songsong Village, Rota;**
2. **On Tinian, July 9, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the CDA/NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and,**
3. **On Saipan, July 10, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan.**

Additional inquiries concerning the CDBG program may be directed in writing to the Corporate Director, or Zenie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP. 96950, or by calling 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

$750K EPA grant for the CNMI

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded a $750,000 Brownfields grants to the CNMI at the conclusion yesterday of the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference at the Saipan World Resort.

Laura Yoshi, acting Regional Administrator for EPA Region 9 in San Francisco, along with assistant Pankaj Arora, handed over a giant check to Department of Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario.

Del Rosario was accompanied by DPL officers Franz Reksid and Mario Cepeda and Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman in accepting the check.

DEQ was one of the co-sponsors and organizers of the bi-annual conference.

Yoshi said the EPA has already awarded a total of $70 billion in Brownfields grants to state projects and private businesses, creating some 54,00 jobs.

Saipan has received $1.5 million from EPA since 2006, primarily intended for cleanup of Brownfields areas, particularly in Marpi and on Tinian.

The new grants will be used to perform a total of 26 site assessments, including work at the proposed Tinian landfill site.

Del Rosario said part of the money will also be used to clean up sites intended for homestead projects on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Brownfields assessment is the first step toward cleanup and redevelopment of potentially contaminated sites.

Conference participants visited Brownfields sites in Marpi yesterday afternoon where they also witnessed the detonation of unexploded World War II ordnance.

Keynote speaker Gil Masters of Stanford University said the conference successfully addressed the three main issues of science, technology and policy.

Rabauliman said that "indeed the conference was able to achieve its goals."

Portia Franz, executive officer of the Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board, said she and the rest of the Palauan delegates gained more knowledge from the climate change experiences of other environmental leaders in the region.

"We can now adopt these knowledge when we go back to our areas of responsibility," she said.

Cherryl Anderson from the University of Hawaii Social Science Research Institute said the conference did a good job of looking at the energy situation and she looks forward to the implementation of the action plans.

David Schaller, Sustainable Development Administrator of Tucson, Arizona, said there is a need to continue to educate people about opportunities and the conference was able to provide those opportunities to the participants.

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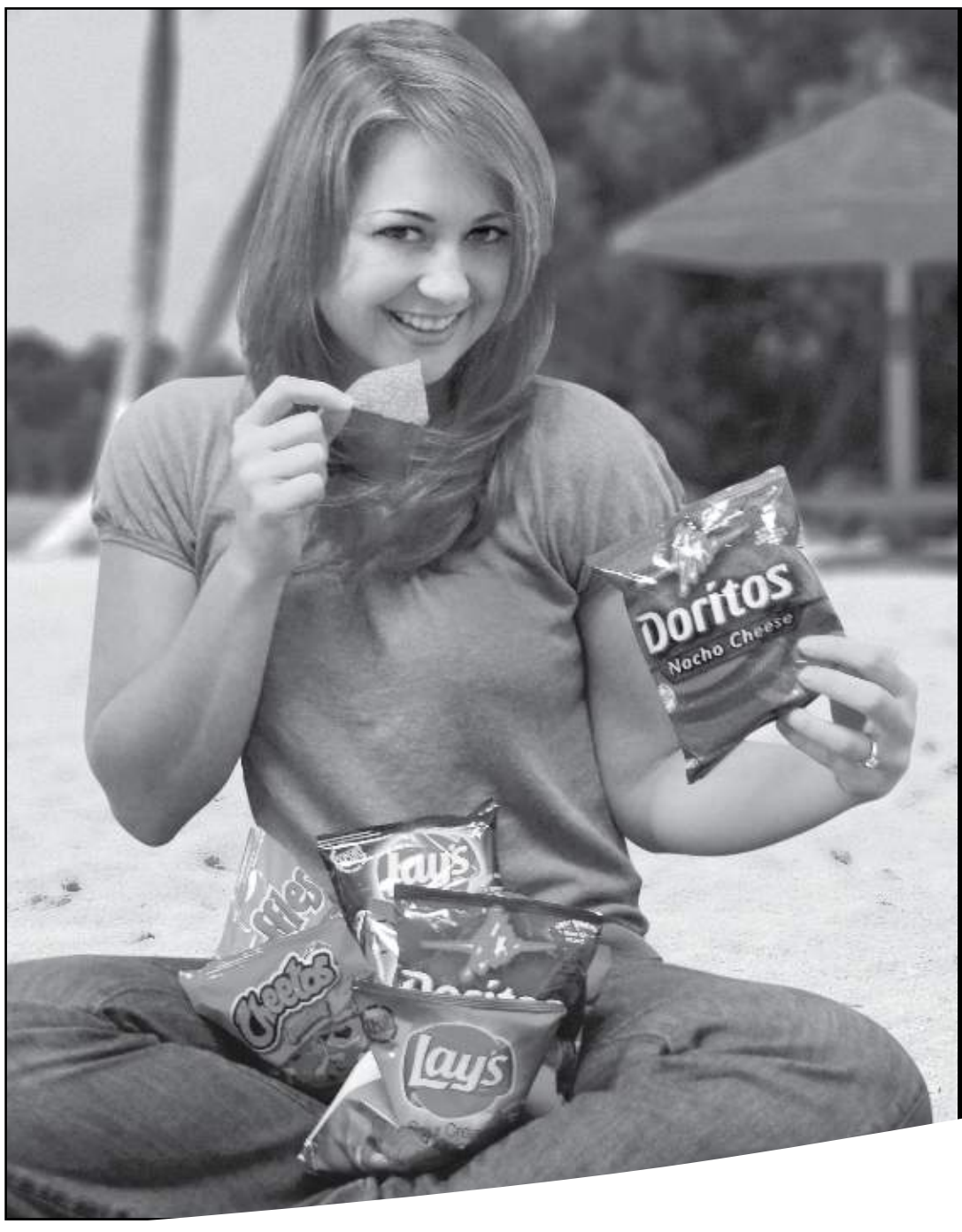

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Island Snapshots

MADE IN THE MARIANAS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fr. Ryan Jimenez, right, looks at the handpainted skinless leaf painting made by Ernie David, left, at the "Made in the Marianas Festival" held at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan on Wednesday. The paintings on display cost anywhere between $50 and $150, although some of David's commissioned artwork cost several hundreds of dollars.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Megan Nevitt shows some of the oil products and artwork at her "Marianas Bath & Body" booth in Wednesday's "Made in the Marianas Festival" at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan. The event was sponsored by the Off the Beaten Path, and the NMI Museum.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Artist Barry Wonenberg shows some of his pottery at the "Made in the Marianas Festival" on Wednesday. Wonenberg's "Marianas Pottery" spans 20 years of handcrafted ceramic objects with an island touch.

A DREAM COME TRUE

Connie C. Deleon Guerrero and Kimberly C. Mendiola graduated from Western Oregon University on Saturday, June 13, 2009. Both mother and daughter graduated with their bachelor's degree in Psychology with honors. Connie graduated magna cum laude and Phi Kappa Phi honors, and Kimberly graduated with Psi Chi Honors (National Honors Society in Psychology). Congratulations on a job well done!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Nita Arriola weaves a fresh mwar at the "Made in the Marianas Festival" on Wednesday at the booth named "Laly 4our Seaside Girls," which she co-shares with her sister Cathy Kapileo.

HIGH PERFORMERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ford Motor Co. congratulates Joeten Motors marts manager Peter Tenorio and service manager Calvin Yamagishi for earning awards in Ford Motor Co.'s new Export Employee Excellence (e3) Program. Tenorio earned a silver level award and Yamagishi earned a gold level award for their performance in customer satisfaction improvement, business growth and training certification. Jae-Byeon Byeon, Ford Parts & Service area manager, was on island this week to present the awards. "I am extremely proud that our managers were able to achieve this level of performance and I appreciate Ford Motor Co.'s continued commitment to help us improve our level of service," said Matthew Deets, general manager of Joeten Motors. In picture, from left are Jae-Hyeon Byeon, Peter Tenorio, Calvin Yamagishi, and Matthew Deets.

BON VOYAGE! NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Leaders of United Filipino Organizations and its member-groups present gifts to Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL Maximo during a farewell party last Tuesday night at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Maximo ended on Thursday his six-year tour of the duty in the CNMI. He goes back to home base in the Philippines to wait for his next assignment.

NEW GRADUATE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maria "Isa" Taitano graduated from Edward R. Murrow High School, Brooklyn, New York on June 23, 2009. This was the 33rd commencement held at the Lincoln Center in Manhattan, New York that day! Of the 763 graduates Taitano received the Edward R. Murrow H.S. Guidance Award for Exceptional Achievement. She belonged in the Screened Arts Program and was awarded a medal for excellence in drawing. She also turned 18 the day before her graduation.

JOETEN SCHOLAR

The Joeten Charitable Foundation announces its scholarship recipient from Saipan Southern High School, Janina Maritita. Janina has demonstrated academic excellence throughout her high school career and will continue to do so in college. She is pictured here with Clarence Tenorio and her mother, former representative Janet Maritita.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Notice to Manta Ray cadets

Attention to Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion cadets: We are kindly asking for your support to join in the 4th of July parade. You can pick up your parent consent form in room B101. There will be a meeting on July 3, 2009, for those Manta Ray cadets that will be joining this event. ***(PR)***

LOI deadline for Democratic Party

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands would like to announce to interested candidates that the deadline for submitting letters of intent to run as a Democrat is July 10. Letters can be emailed to nmidemocrats@gmail.com. Questions should be directed to Credentials chair Pete Arriola at 287-7769. Individuals who want to register as an NMI Democrat are encouraged to do so. The Democratic Party welcomes all who want "New Beginning, New Leaders, New Direction." ***(PR)***

67-Zero Rock Steady Shop asks: 'Can you dance?'

The 67-Zero Rock Steady Shop announces the first-ever "67-Zero Rock Steady Dance-Off" in conjunction with the Liberation Day Entertainment Committee. An open invitation is out to all dance crews who think they got what it takes to battle it out on the biggest dance floor on Saipan.

The event will consist of a single elimination tournament, with the best crews moving on until there is only one team left standing. All the action starts Saturday, June 27, at the Liberation Day Carnival Grounds, located at the Garapan Fishing Base.

For more information, visit the Liberation Day Information every night from 6pm to 11pm, e-mail your contact info to L.J. Castro at ljmamis@gmail.com or call 483-1027, or call Gordon Marciano at 287-1195. ***(PR)***

Prior service checks delayed

The Prior Service Trust Fund Administration would like to advise all beneficiaries that benefits for May and July 2009 will be delayed due to insufficient grant money. We will pay these months when money becomes available. We apologize for this inconvenience and appreciate your patience. ***(PR)***

Youth development programs set

DCCA-Division of Youth Services will be hosting Cycle 6 of its *Man'Amko Yan Manhoben* Youth Development Program and Mentorship –Summer Program.

- Cycle 6: Man Amko Yan Man Hoben Mentorship Program –First Session (Awaodori Cultural Dance) in partnership with the Saipan Awaodori Team from June 19 to July 2, Monday through Friday, at the Tanapag Youth Center from 3pm to 5pm
- Cycle 6: Man Amko Yan Man Hoben Mentorship Program –Second Session (Vocational Arts/Phonics & Reading/Joeten Public Library –Bookmobile/Basic Korean Language/Sports/Career Awareness) from July 6 to September 6, Monday through Friday, at the Tanapag Youth Center from 9am to 2pm

This program will only accept the first 100 registered children and youth ages 5 years to 17 years old. Registration is from Monday through Thursday, June 15-18, at the Tanapag Center. Ask for Debra A. Inos, Youth Development Program manager, or contact her at 287-2773/322-0046/4 from 9am to 2pm. ***(PR)***

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PRIMARY ELECTION
OFFICIAL BALLOT
FOR
Governor and Lieutenant Governor
June 27, 2009

GOP

Please indicate by placing an (X), (✓), or shading ONLY ONE of the box below of your selection for Governor and Lieutenant Governor candidates for the Republican Party.

☐ HEINZ SABLAN HOFSCHNEIDER And ARNOLD INDALECIO PALACIOS

☐ JUAN NEKAI BABAUTA And GALVIN SABLAN DELEON GUERRERO

Acknowledgement and affirmation of commitment:

We, HEINZ SABLAN HOFSCHNEIDER and ARNOLD INDALECIO PALACIOS, do hereby pledge our commitment to rally and support the winning candidate(s) of this Republican Party Open Primary Election.

05-05-09
HEINZ SABLAN HOFSCHNEIDER

05-05-09
ARNOLD INDALECIO PALACIOS

We, JUAN NEKAI BABAUTA and GALVIN SABLAN DELEON GUERRERO , do hereby pledge our commitment to rally and support the winning candidate(s) of this Republican Party Open Primary Election.

5/5/09
JUAN NEKAI BABAUTA

5/5/09
GALVIN SABLAN DELEON GUERRERO

SAMPLE

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, July 2, 2009 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications

B. Reports
1. Chairman
2.Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Comments

D. Permits/ Applications and related actions: review and decide. None

E. Old Business. None

F. New Business
1. Requests for extension from deadline to relocate to Adult Business Overlay Zone.
   a. Pacific Entertainment Corp. dba Club Chicago

G. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters

H. Miscellaneous
1. Other Matters
2. Announcements
3. Next Meeting

I. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

The summer staff at the District Court. From left, Sandy Leon Guerrero, Josephine Kapileo, Dixie Inos, Rod Sablan, Renea San Nicolas, and Rebecca Agulto.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

History goes online at the US District Court

A team of summer employees at the U.S. District Court are making history, or at least making it available for online research.

They are scanning paper case files of criminal, civil and bankruptcy court cases from 2005 back to the court's inception in 1978, converting them to online PDF documents so that all cases will be searchable on the Internet.

These six federal employees are college students from the CNMI who were hired for a June through September project at $12.97 an hour, working in pairs with high-speed scanners and computers. They are making fast progress toward the estimated 80,000 documents that need to be scanned.

Upon conclusion, attorneys and the public will be able to research every case filed at the District Court, and review every "docket sheet" online. The full text of recent documents will be available through the Internet, and older documents (before parties were notified that their documents would be published online) can be read and searched at public computer terminals in the courthouse. ***(PR)***

NMC English placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English placement tests for Summer Session II and the Fall 2009 semester:

■ July 2	1pm - 4pm	D-1
■ Aug. 3	1pm - 4pm	D-1
■ Aug. 5	5pm - 8pm	D-1
■ August 6	1pm - 4pm	D-1
■ Aug. 13	5pm - 8pm	D-1
■ Aug. 14	9am - 12pm	D-1
■ Aug. 21	9am - 12pm	A-5

Registration for Summer Session IIa (July 6 – Aug. 14) will continue until July 2. Registration for the Fall 2009 semester will begin on Aug. 17 and end on Aug. 21. New students are required to take the English placement test before registering for classes.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

There is a $25 fee each for the English placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 9am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions about the English placement test, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242.

For additional information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR FRIDAY, 26, JUNE 2009.

DATE: **Friday, 26 June 2009**

TIME: **2:30 PM**

LOCATION: **Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building**
Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office
Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order**
II. **Roll Call**
III. **Adoption of Agenda**
IV. **Adoption of Minutes**
V. **Chairman's Report**
VI. **Old Business**
- Funding Status

VII. **New Business**
- Staffing Needs

VIII. **Miscellaneous**
IX. **Adjournment**

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao **June 23, 2009**
Chairman

Announcement

The Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI GOP) will conduct and supervise an Open Primary Election on June 27, 2009. All currently registered voters in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on the official roster listing provided by the Election Commission, will be permitted to vote on June 27, 2009, at the polling places designated below by election precinct.

There will be no advance voting and no voting by absentee ballots.

CNMI GOP PRIMARY ELECTION DATE
June 27, 2009
Polls will open at 7 am and close at 6 pm

POLLING PLACES

The polling places are as follows:

SAIPAN:
Precinct 1:
- San Antonio Elementary School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

Precinct 2:
- Municipal Council Office

Precinct 3:
- Oleai Elementary School
- Garapan Elementary School

Precinct 4:
- Tanapag Youth Center
- Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School (San Roque)
- Legislature Building (Capital Hill).

Precinct 5:
- Kagman Community Center

Northern Islands , Rota and Tinian voters on Saipan:
Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

TINIAN:
Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria

ROTA:
Northern Marianas College Campus

VOTING IN ANOTHER MUNICIPALITY ON THE PRIMARY ELECTION DAY:

Voters registered on Rota, Tinian, Saipan, or Northern Islands, who will be present in another municipality on the Primary Election Day, will be allowed to vote. Those voters are required to notify the CNMI GOP by filling out a form provided by the CNMI GOP no later than 12 noon on June 26, 2009. Only those voters who notify the CNMI GOP by the deadline shall be permitted to vote at the Multi-Purpose Center, in Susupe, Saipan; at the Tinian Elementary School on Tinian; and NMC Campus on Rota.

REGISTERED VOTER LISTING:

The eligible list of voters shall be from the latest computerized listing of voters provided by the Election Commission to the CNMI GOP scheduled to be released by June 15, 2009.

Any person who registers to vote with the Election Commission after the cut-off date will be eligible to vote in the Primary Election by presenting a valid voter registration card and a photo ID from a government entity, such as a driver's license or passport, as proof of identity.

CONFINED VOTERS:

Confined voters will be permitted to cast their ballots in their homes by making a request on a form provided by the CNMI GOP at the GOP office no later than 12 noon on June 27, 2009. A designated team of poll workers will be responsible for delivering the ballots to the homes of confined voters to ensure that the ballots are cast in private, the ballots are collected and secured by depositing into a designated ballot box.

For more information please contact the CNMI GOP office at 235-4467, or visit us at the CNMI GOP Headquarters at the Oleai Center, Suite # 113, in San Jose Village, Saipan.

Paid for by the Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI GOP) – David J. Attao, Treasurer.

Business

Fed says recession easing, inflation is tame

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve sought Wednesday to defuse fears that the trillions it's spending to revive the economy could spark inflation later on. But Wall Street didn't seem to buy it.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues said that despite an easing of the recession, the economy remains frail enough to keep inflation at bay.

Fed policymakers held a key bank lending rate at a record low of between zero and 0.25 percent and pledged to keep it there for "an extended period" to help brace the economy. The Fed made no new commitment to expand its purchases of government bonds and mortgage securities, to try to drive down rates on consumer debt. That rattled bond investors who fear the prospect of higher interest rates.

But Wall Street zeroed in on the Fed's new observations about the risks of deflation and inflation.

Fed policymakers dropped language they had used in the statement at their last meeting in April that the weak economy could trigger deflation—a destabilizing and prolonged bout of falling prices and wages. This also spooked bond investors, who took the Fed's decision not to mention deflation to mean inflation might arise later.

The Fed acknowledged that energy and other commodity prices have risen recently. But policymakers predicted that idle factories and the weak employment market would make it hard for companies to ratchet up prices. The Fed said it expects inflation will "remain subdued for some time."

The mere mention of higher prices, though, hit the Treasury market because the value of returns on fixed-income investments can erode quickly if inflation occurs. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.69 percent from 3.63 percent Tuesday.

Bernanke to face hostile questioning on BofA deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke likely will face hostile questions from a House committee investigating whether he and other government officials pressured Bank of America Corp. into a "shotgun wedding" with Merrill Lynch that cost taxpayers $20 billion.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has scheduled a hearing Thursday as it probes whether federal officials urged Bank of America CEO Kenneth Lewis to keep quiet last fall about Merrill Lynch's financial problems and stick with the plan to combine the two financial powers.

Not divulging that information would have violated Lewis' fiduciary duty to the bank's shareholders.

Spokesmen for the Fed and former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson have denied they pressured Lewis to get the deal done and to not disclose his concerns about Merrill's finances.

Earlier this month, Lewis said his job was threatened after he expressed second thoughts about the merger. Lewis said Paulson and federal regulators made clear that if the Charlotte, N.C.-based bank reneged on its promise, that he and the bank's board members would be ousted.

THE FUTURE OF THIS COMMONWEALTH IS IN THE HANDS OF VOTERS

JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR ISLANDS' FUTURE

VOTE IN THE CNMI REPUBLICAN PARTY OPEN PRIMARY ON JUNE 27, 2009

We encourage and urge all registered voters to exercise your right to choose the next leaders of the Commonwealth in the upcoming CNMI REPUBLICAN PARTY OPEN PRIMARY ON JUNE 27, 2009. Cast your ballots to select the standard bearer for the Republican Party of the Northern Marianas in November.

Please do not take for granted your right to choose your leaders. Exercise your precious right to vote in our open primary. The polls in all election precincts on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, will be open on SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2009, FROM 7 AM TO 6 PM.

For more information, please contact the CNMI REPUBLICAN PARTY office at 235-4GOP/4467, or stop by the CNMI REPUBLICAN PARTY office at the Oleai Center, Suite 113, San Jose Village, Saipan. Also visit the CNMI REPUBLICAN PARTY website at www.cnmigop.org.

Paid for by the Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands, David J. Attao, Treasurer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN, TINIAN AND ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS
PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF PAINT SUPPLIES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Procurement and Delivery of Paint Supplies to the Saipan, Tinian and Rota International Airports.

The scope of work entails the purchase and delivery of brand new paint supplies to each airport. The detailed scope of work and breakdown of paint purchases will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, June 12, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all shipping charges and taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Procurement and Delivery of Paint Supplies to the Saipan, Tinian and Rota International Airports". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 11, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport Runway 07/25 Rehabilitation, Package II Phase II Project, AIP No. 3-69-0002-53/58, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. Key personnel's professional background and caliber and availability for the proposed services;
3. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI; and
4. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 10, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 9, 2009

Weak economy will zap holiday trips, AAA says

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Economic instability will trump cheaper gas this July Fourth holiday, with more people choosing to stay home rather than hit the road, according to a survey released Wednesday

Auto club AAA said it expects 37.1 million travelers—12 percent of the U.S. population—to take a trip of 50 miles or more from home this year, a decrease of 1.9 percent from last year.

Gasoline prices had risen every day for nearly two months until Monday, but remain far below last year's levels, when a gallon surpassed $4.

National average pump prices are now 34 percent lower at about $2.68 per gallon.

AAA says the economy, particularly the rising unemployment rate and sagging personal incomes, is to blame.

Declining airfares, however, should bolster air travel by 4.9 percent, according to the survey.

Last year auto travel plunged 10.5 percent. Many people who did not take a trip last year when gas hit $4 per gallon said they will be traveling this year to shake their cabin fever.

But compared with 2007, travel over this holiday is still down 12 percent.

Unemployment is at 9.4 percent and expected to top 10 percent, household income is dropping and Americans saw their net worth fall by a staggering $1.3 billion in the first quarter amid declining home values and investment portfolios.

NY judge delays restitution order in Madoff's fraud case

NEW YORK (AP)—Financier Bernard Madoff will not be ordered to pay restitution at his sentencing next week, a judge said Wednesday, citing the complexity of the multibillion-dollar fraud.

U.S. District Judge Denny Chin said in an order that the sentencing will proceed as scheduled on Monday.

But he granted a request by prosecutors to delay for three months deciding whether to order restitution or to order victim compensation through forfeiture laws and related regulations.

"I find that the number of victims, the difficulties posed by the lack of proper record-keeping, and the scope, complexity and duration of the fraud make it impossible, at this stage, to determine whether restitution is practiceable," Chin wrote.

The restitution order is a routine part of sentencing proceedings in fraud cases, but the process of liquidating Madoff's assets and distributing proceeds to his investors is well under way since Madoff and his wife agreed to give up most of their assets shortly after his arrest.

In a separate order, Chin also ruled that clothing can be delivered to Madoff to be worn at his sentencing.

Madoff, 71, has been housed at the Metropolitan Correctional Center next to the federal courthouse in lower Manhattan since he pleaded guilty on March 12 to 11 charges including securities fraud and perjury.

He faces up to 150 years in prison after admitting that he ran a fraudulent investment service for decades, squandering billions of dollars for thousands of investors.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Obama leaves door open to tax on health benefits

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama left the door open to a new tax on health care benefits Wednesday, and officials said top lawmakers and the White House were seeking $150 billion in concessions from the nation's hospitals as they sought support for legislation struggling to emerge in Congress. "I don't want to prejudge what they're doing," the president said, referring to proposals in the Senate to tax workers who get expensive insurance policies. Obama, who campaigned against the tax when he ran for president, drew a quick rebuff from one union president.

Indicted billionaire to appear in court in Texas

HOUSTON(AP)—Formonths, billionaire R. Allen Stanford has denied allegations he swindled investors out of $7 billion. On Thursday, the 59-year-old Texas financier was expected to have a chance to formally declare in court he is innocent of charges his international banking and financial empire was really just a Ponzi scheme. Stanford and three executives from his now defunct Houston-based Stanford Financial Group were set to be arraigned in federal court, a week after a grand jury returned a 21-count indictment against them.

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
1980 "Investing For The Future Financial Security of our Members"

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. RF09-060

OPENING DATE: **JUNE 2, 2009** CLOSING DATE: **JULY 2, 2009**

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY REQUEST THE RFP PACKET BY E-MAIL, FACSIMILE, OR POSTAL MAIL FROM:

ADMINISTRATOR
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND
PO BOX 501247, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • FAX: 670/664-8080
E-MAIL: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its *Special* meeting on **Monday, June 29, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. OLD BUSINESS
  1. Civil Action No. 06-0367
IV. NEW BUSINESS
  1. Civil Case No. 09-0021
  2. Civil Case No. 09-0022
  3. Petition for Letters of Instructions
V. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VI. MISCELLANEOUS
  A. Announcements
  B. Next Meeting
  C. Adjournment

/s/ JUAN T. GUERRERO
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

Nation

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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LOADING BRIDGES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services for four (4) loading bridges. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, June 26, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport". One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 25, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF PAINT SUPPLIES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RIA-001-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Procurement and Delivery of Paint Supplies to the Rota International Airport.

The scope of work entails the purchase and delivery of new paint supplies for the terminal building at the Rota International Airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, June 19, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all shipping costs and taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Procurement and Delivery of New Paint Supplies for the Rota International Airport Terminal Building". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 17, 2009

SC governor admits affair and a secret Argentina trip

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—After going AWOL for seven days, Gov. Mark Sanford admitted Wednesday that he had secretly flown to Argentina to visit a woman with whom he was having an affair. Wiping away tears, he apologized to his family and gave up a national Republican Party post, but was silent on whether he would resign.

Sanford

"I've been unfaithful to my wife," he said in a news conference in which the 49-year-old governor ruminated on God's law, moral absolutes and following one's heart. He said he spent the last five days "crying in Argentina."

Sanford, who in recent months had been mentioned as a possible presidential candidate in 2012, said he would resign as head of the Republican Governors Association.

By leaving the country without formally transferring power, critics said he neglected his gubernatorial authority and put the state at risk. It wasn't clear how his staff could reach him in an emergency.

At least one state lawmaker called for his resignation. As a congressman, Sanford voted in favor of three of four articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton, citing the need for "moral legitimacy."

Sanford described the woman who lives in Argentina as a "dear, dear friend" whom he has known for about eight years and been romantically involved with for about a year. He said he has seen her three times since the affair began, and his wife found out about it five months ago.

Investigators look at 'anomalies' in track's circuit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Investigators are focusing on a stretch of track near the site of a deadly commuter train crash after finding abnormalities Wednesday in vital equipment that detects passing trains and transmits speed and stop commands.

The test results raised the possibility that trains passing through that stretch could have had trouble receiving signals to stop or slow down. Officials stopped short of saying whether the sensors were broken, refusing to elaborate on the "anomalies" that testers found.

"Whether trains are operated in automatic or manual, these circuits are vital," said Debbie Hersman of the National Transportation Safety Boards. "We're particularly interested in the speed commands that might be sent from that circuit when there's a train standing on that circuit."

Equipment along a 740-foot stretch failed to recognize a device that simulates the presence of a train during the tests, said Debbie Hersman of the National Transportation Safety Board, which is leading the investigation. Five other stretches of track, or circuits, in the area of the crash near the Maryland state line showed no problems.

Hersman wouldn't give specifics on what the "anomalies" were or whether investigators think they were occurring before the crash, saying more tests were needed. Investigators planned to test the track with a six-car train Wednesday night.

A VOTE IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

In this life, we take too many things for granted. Take for instance the right to vote. Throughout history, torture and even death have been used to prevent people from casting their ballots in an election.

These instances, no matter how many, have failed to silence the voices of humanity desiring to participate in the running of their communities and governments. There are people still living in our islands who can recall a time when the election of government leaders was only an abstract concept in their minds and a yearning in their hearts. Imagine what these elders would say if they knew you were going to throw your vote away.

On June 27, 2009 please vote for
HEINZ SABLAN HOFSCHNEIDER and
ARNOLD INDALECIO PALACIOS
in the Republican Primary Election.

Voting polls open from 7:00 am - 6:00 pm at all regular polling stations designated by the Commonwealth Election Commission.

☑ Voting is an exercise of civic responsibility.

☑ Voting is a serious thing.

☑ Be respectful of your vote.

☑ Be wise on who you vote for.

☑ Don't throw your vote away.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Heinz S. Hofschneider & Arnold I. Palacios
www.heinzarnold2009.com

ACROSS THE NATION

Feds arrest head of anti-gang group in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man who said he left a ruthless street gang in Central America and later won praise for his anti-gang work in Los Angeles was arrested Wednesday by authorities who allege he conspired to kill a rival even as he spoke out against gang life. Alex Sanchez, 37, who heads the local office of the nonprofit Homies Unidos anti-gang group, was taken into custody at his Bellflower home on federal racketeering charges, authorities said. The indictment names 24 leaders, members and associates of MS-13, part of the Mara Salvatrucha gang affiliated with the Mexican Mafia prison gang.

California doomsday: State could run out of cash

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—To hear Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and state finance officials tell it, July 28 is California's last stand before fiscal Armageddon. Top financial officers say that's when the state will run out of cash to pay its daily expenses unless lawmakers pass a balanced budget. Schwarzenegger has warned that government will come to a "grinding halt." The state controller describes "a meltdown." But what exactly will happen just five weeks from now is less clear-cut than the dire pronouncements suggest.

Even cops losing their jobs in recession

CHICAGO (AP)—As hundreds of jobs in Chicago's police department go unfilled, officers who once patrolled the streets with partners are riding alone in what some cops bitterly call "rolling coffins." In a Pennsylvania town that disbanded its three-member police force, Anita Gricar worries that officers from the neighboring town won't come fast enough if she calls for help. She also misses the comfort that came from having officers who knew everyone and everything about Versailles, Pa., population 1,700. "They knew your house, they knew when your tomatoes are red," Gricar said. This is what the nation's economic crisis looks like in law enforcement. As tax revenue shrivels, police agencies that for years were bulletproof when it came to funding are tightening their belts. Some worry that criminals will take advantage of the situation.

Supremacist blogger accused of threatening judges

CHICAGO (AP)—A white supremacist blogger was arrested at his New Jersey home Wednesday and charged with threatening to assault or murder three Chicago-based judges who refused to overturn local ordinances banning handguns. Hal Turner, 47, a former Internet radio talk show host, was taken into custody by FBI agents who went to his North Bergen home with a search warrant, according to the U.S. attorney's office. Prosecutors quoted a Turner Internet posting as saying: "Let me be the first to say this plainly: These judges deserve to be killed."

Scary NY welcome for French tourists: police chase

NEW YORK (AP)—Five French tourists got a harrowing start to their New York visit: a wild police chase. As they looked for a ride at the Air France terminal at John F. Kennedy International Airport on Tuesday morning, the visitors were lured to a van that was not licensed to provide taxi service, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey spokesman John Kelly said. Plainclothes police recognized the man who enticed the tourists, Ian McFarland, as a repeat offender previously arrested for corralling passengers into unlicensed cars. A Port Authority officer reached inside the van to try and grab the keys, but the driver, Khaalif Preacher, sped off with the tourists inside, knocking the officer to the ground, Kelly said.

We are sons of the Marianas and have been moved by your compassion, your concerns for the future of your children and the Marianas. There are many gubernatorial candidates in this upcoming election and the voters must decide which team will best represent the interests of the Commonwealth. Many of these candidates have already had their opportunity to lead.

Having spent many years at the Legislature we know first hand what the issues are and what the executive branch can do to better the lives of all our residents. These are especially trying times and it is important that we start electing leaders who know what the issues are and what to do about them.

We ask for your vote of confidence at the polls this Saturday. We pledge to restore your confidence in our government by putting the public's interest first in all things. And we thank you for your help and for your support during this primary election season.

Please vote for Heinz Sablan Hofschneider and Arnold Indalecio Palacios in the Open Primary this Saturday, June 27, 2009, from 7am to 6pm at all regular polling placed designated by the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Your future depends upon your vote this Saturday.

Thank you for your support and vote of confidence.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Heinz S. Hofschneider & Arnold I. Palacios

www. heinzarnold2009.com

Asia

NKorea warns of 'fire shower of nuclear' attack

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea condemned a recent U.S. pledge to provide nuclear defense of South Korea, saying Thursday that the move boosts its justification to have atomic bombs and invites a potential "fire shower of nuclear retaliation."

The commentary in Pyongyang's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper was the North's latest reaction to last week's summit between President Barack Obama and South Korean President Lee Myung-bak. The allies issued a joint statement committing the U.S. to defend the South with nuclear weapons.

It also came as an American destroyer trailed a North Korean ship suspected of shipping weapons in violation of a U.N. resolution punishing Pyongyang's May 25 nuclear test, and as anticipation mounted that the North might test-fire short- or mid-range missiles in the coming days.

The North's newspaper claimed that the "nuclear umbrella" commitment made it more likely for the U.S. to mount a nuclear attack on the communist North, and only "provides us with a stronger justification to have nuclear deterrent."

It also amounts to "asking for the calamitous situation of having a fire shower of nuclear retaliation all over South Korea" in case of a conflict, the paper said.

Tropical storm kills 8 in Philippines; 11 missing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A tropical storm whipped up a tornado, triggered a landslide and overturned boats as it cut across the northern Philippines, leaving at least eight dead and 11 missing amid widespread flooding, officials said.

Storm Nangka, with winds of 34 miles (55 kilometers) per hour and gusts of up to 56 mph (90 kph), moved into the South China Sea west of Manila overnight and was expected to track northwest toward the Taiwan Strait this weekend, forecasters said Thursday.

Nearly 10,000 people were stranded aboard hundreds of ferries and motorboats, which were ordered to stay docked for safety.

Two people died when a landslide buried their house in southern Cagayan de Oro city after days of heavy rain, the national disaster agency reported.

In mountainous Quezon province, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) southeast of Manila, a tornado struck a fishing boat that had taken cover in a cove, killing four fishermen and injuring two others late Tuesday.

All six were sleeping on the boat near Perez township when the tornado hit, Mayor Pepito Reyes said.

Two people drowned in central Cebu province Tuesday. Eleven others, including five fishermen, disappeared in floodwaters and rough seas in eastern Samar Island and nearby provinces, officials said.

US general says troops need revised view of Aghan war

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S. Gen. Stanley McChrystal said Wednesday that U.S. and other NATO troops must make a "cultural shift" away from being a force designed for high intensity combat and instead make protecting Afghan civilians their first priority.

The newly arrived four-star commander said he hopes to install a new military mindset by drilling into troops the need to reduce the number of Afghan civilians killed in combat.

McChrystal is expected to formally announce new combat rules within days that will order troops to break away from fights—if they can do so safely—if militants are firing from civilian homes. One effect of the new order will be that troops may have to wait out insurgents instead of using force to oust them, he said.

"Traditionally American forces are designed for conventional, high-intensity combat," McChrystal said during a visit to Camp Leatherneck, a new U.S. Marine base housing thousands of newly deployed Marines in southern Helmand province. "In my mind what we've really got to do is make a cultural shift."

Because the military is such a big organization, the new message will take "constant repetition," he said.

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Interview with Principal

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ASIAN BRIEFS

US drone attack claims 80 lives in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—What appeared to be the deadliest U.S. missile attack ever on Pakistani soil brought an unusual reaction Wednesday in a country that has previously denounced such strikes as an affront to its sovereignty—silence. Tuesday's attack killed 80 people, Pakistani officials said, but missed its chief target, Baitullah Mehsud. He is the country's top Taliban leader and its public enemy No. 1, accused of masterminding numerous brutal operations including the assassination of Benazir Bhutto. The seemingly accurate targeting appeared to point to cooperation between the U.S. military and Pakistani intelligence—despite Pakistani denials. This was possible because Mehsud—unlike some other U.S. foes in the northwest tribal region on the Afghan border—is so reviled in Pakistan.

China arrests dissident who championed reforms

BEIJING (AP)—A well-known Chinese dissident who co-authored a bold political manifesto calling for greater freedom and an end to one-party rule has been arrested in an attempt to cow dissent ahead of the 60th anniversary of communist rule this fall. Liu Xiaobo had been held by police at a secret location for more than six months with no formal notification given to his family. Police finally delivered a written notice to his wife, Liu Xia, on Wednesday informing her that her husband was arrested the day before on suspicion of "inciting to subvert state power" and transferred to a Beijing city detention center. Liu's case marks the most high-profile arrest of a Chinese dissident since human rights activist Hu Jia was detained last year ahead of the Beijing Olympics. Hu was sentenced to 3 1/2 years in prison for sedition last April.

Afghan girl burned by white phosphorus heads home

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (AP)—A nurse fixed a black wig on Razia's scarred and disfigured scalp before the 8-year-old took off around the emergency room to bid farewell to the staff who cared for her after white phosphorous scorched her head, face, neck and hands. When Razia came to the U.S. military hospital four months ago, Capt. Christine Collins didn't think she would make it out alive. On Wednesday, the little Afghan girl left this military hospital for an arduous journey to her village, a 50-mile (80-kilometer) drive from Bagram Air Base. "I am fine, I want to go home," Razia quietly told Collins and a group of other hospital staff who had come to see her off.

World

Iran police use tear gas, clubs to crush protest

By BRIAN MURPHY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

A flood of security forces using tear gas and clubs quickly overwhelmed a small group of rock-throwing protesters near Iran's parliament Wednesday, and the country's supreme leader said the outcome of the disputed presidential election will stand—the latest signs of the government's growing confidence in quelling unrest on the streets.

As the election showdown has shifted, demonstrators are finding themselves increasingly scattered and struggling under a blanket crackdown that the wife of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi compared to martial law. In Wednesday's clashes, thousands of police crushed hundreds of Mousavi supporters.

The statement by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that the June 12 election of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad would not be reversed was accompanied by a vow that the nation's rulers would never yield to demands from the streets.

Since last week's protests, the government has unleashed days of escalating force, including the full weight of the powerful Revolutionary Guard and its feared civilian militias on the opposition.

Social networking sites carried claims of brutal tactics by police such as savage beatings with batons, but the report could not be independently confirmed.

In the battle for public opinion, the leaders also ramped up a familiar smear campaign: that the opposition was being aided by the United States and other perceived foes of Iran.

Women in Iran's protests: head scarves and rocks

By REBECCA SANTANA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

For years, women's defiance in Iran came in carefully planned flashes of hair under their head scarves, brightly painted fingernails and trendy clothing that could be glimpsed under bulky coats and cloaks.

But these small acts of rebellion against the theocratic government have been quickly eclipsed in the wake of the disputed June 12 presidential elections. In their place came images of Iranian women marching alongside men, of their scuffles with burly militiamen, of the sobering footage of a young woman named Neda, blood pouring from her mouth and nose minutes after her fatal shooting.

In a part of the Muslim world where women are often repressed, these images have catapulted Iran's female demonstrators to the forefront of the country's opposition movement. It is a role, say Iranian women and experts, that few seem willing to give up, and one that will likely present President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's hardline government with even greater challenges in the wake of the recent violence and protests.

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

ELISA P. AQUININGOC/JESSE P. AQUININGOC (collectively "Trustor"), on or about December 4, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 10, 1998 under Document No. 98-4068 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 008 T 114

Containing an area of 923 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 008 T 01 dated January 7, 1988, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 88-161, dated January 19, 1988, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$40,230.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009**, at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

GUADALUPE O. BORJA ("Trustor"), on or about October 16, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 16, 1984 under Document No. 84-2185 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 017 D 35, containing an area of 900 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat Number 017 D 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 4842, on the 11th day of September, 1975.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$69,630.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009**, at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

DONALD C. CAMACHO and ROSALINDA ULLOA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about December 20, 2004, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 23, 2004 under Document No. 04-3035 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot 001 C 57, (part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of Lot 001 C 15, which was part of Lot 001 C 13, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, TD 697), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 11, the original of which was recorded 05 JUN as Document No. 98-1697 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$68,230.00.** Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009**, at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

ESTHER A. CASTRO and WAYNE T. ALDAN (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 20, 2001, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 2, 2001 under Document No. 01-2164 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 330 R 21 containing an area of 838 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 330 R 02, dated March 13, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-858, dated March 16, 1992, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$31,830.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009**, at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

DONNA Q. KAPILEO and DONOVAN K. TECHUR (collectively "Trustor"), on or about November 16, 1999, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 23, 1999 under Document No. 99-2778 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 011 G 1091, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 20, the original of which was recorded 09 Dec 93 as Document No. 93-4288 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$38,130.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009**, at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

MARIA A. TEREGEYO ("Trustor"), on or about June 6, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 6, 1984 under Document No. 84-881 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 005 I 494, containing an area of 745 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document Number 14232 dated May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$82,230.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009**, at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

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2009 SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING PROGRAM
JULY 6 - 31, 2009

ROTA		
NAME	PLACEMENT	AGENCY
AGUON, Loraina L.	Council Aide	RMC
ALPINO, Katelyn M.	Weights & Measures	Dept. of Commerce
APATANG, Berlani B.	Fire Fighter	DPS
APATANG, Bonita B.	Front Desk Clerk	Kin & Rit Inc
APATANG, Derald H.	Radio/Weather Observer	CPA
APATANG, Dexter H.	ARFF	CPA
ATALIG, Cisco M.	Ports Police	CPA
ATALIG, Donovan M.	Seaport Operation	CPA
ATALIG, Jerry T., II	Police Officer	DPS
ATALIG, Mardel M.	Stock Clerk	3 Kings Ent
ATALIG, Sylvana M.	Receptionist	CPA
ATALIG, Tonica A.	Administrative Assistant	DPS
BARCINAS, Patrick O.	Police Officer	DPS
CABLAY, Alfredo G., Jr.	Mechanic Helper	DPW
CABLAY, Juan A.	ABTC Trainee	Dept. of Commerce
CELIS, Joy Q.	Office Clerk	Casino Gaming Commission
GALINATO, Janelle T.	Front Desk Clerk	The Rota Hotel
GUIAWN, Mark E.	Forestry Technician	DLNR
GUILLERMO, Arthur H.	Administrative Assistant	DPS
GUILLERMO, Lazaro H.	Council Aide	12th RMC
GUILLERMO, Marylyn H.	Filing Clerk	3 Kings Ent
GUZMAN, Laticia H.	Council Aide	12th RMC
HIPOLIFO, Norjay B.	Stock Clerk	Kin & Rit Inc
HIPOLITO, Ryan B.	Upward Bound/ETS	NMC
HIZON, Aurionne R.	Office Clerk	Casino Gaming Commission
HOCOG, Felix M.	Computer Lab Technician	NMC
HOCOG, Valen C.	ARFF	CPA
IGISAIAR, April A.	Office Aide	Rota Jr HS
IGISAIAR, Nadine A.	Ports Police	CPA
KANI, William A.	Stock Clerk	3 Kings Ent Sinapalo
LIZAMA, Jose R.	Forestry Technician	DLNR
LIZAMA, Paul R., Jr.	Forestry Technician	DLNR
LIZAMA, Samson R.	Forestry Technician	DLNR
MANGLONA, Bill M.	Forestry Technician	DLNR
MANGLONA, Ignacio C., Jr.	Trades Helper	CUC Power
MANGLONA, Jayville M.	Police Officer	DPS
MANGLONA, Joreena C.	Administrative Assistant	NMC
MANGLONA, Laura M.	Administrative Assistant	DPS
MANGLONA, Manases, M., Jr.	Forestry Technician	DLNR
MANGLONA, Marlo M.	Fire Fighter	DPS
MANGLONA, Mike O., Jr.	Office Clerk	DPW
MANGLONA, Misael O.	Warehouseman	Ace Hardware
MANGLONA, Nuke M.	Police Officer	DPS
MANGLONA, Roxanne A.	Statistician	Dept. of Commerce
MARATITA, Andrei A.	Upward Bound/ETS	NMC
MARATITA, Romalina M.	Bookkeeper	Kin & Rit Inc
MASGA, Alvir P.	Council Aide	RMC
MASGA, Austin B.	Ports Police	CPA
MASGA, Camille S.	Ports Police	CPA
MASGA, Carmen	Seaport Operation	CPA
MASGA, Melody P.	4-H Youth Development	NMC
MASGA, Shawn	Police Officer	DPS
MENDIOLA, Aleen U.	Council Aide	12th RMC
MENDIOLA, David B., II	Forestry Technician	DLNR
MENDIOLA, Maria S.	Administrative Assistant	CUC
MENDIOLA, Rose S.	Council Aide	12th RMC
MEREB, Marilyn	Office Aide	Rota Jr HS
MESNGON, Loriann L.	Receptionist	CPA
OGO, Jeannida M.	Office Clerk	DPW
PANGELINAN, Justin B.	Ports Police	CPA
PINAULA, Gina C.	Seaport Operation	CPA
POLL, Alberson H.	Ports Police	CPA
QUIAMBAU, Mark E.	Data Entry Keyer	Dept. of Commerce
QUITUGUA, Raphael B.	Fire Fighter	DPS
REYES, Albert P.	Forestry Technician	DLNR
REYES, Allan P.	Council Aide	12th RMC
REYES, Anthony P., Jr.	Stock Clerk	Ace Hardware
RICHARDS, Brian M., Jr.	ARFF	CPA
ROCOMA, Juanita N.	Distance Learning	NMC
SAKISAT, Raymelyn D.	Seaport Operation	CPA
SALAZAR, Anton R.	Administrative Assistant	DPS
SOLANG, Jeremy J.	Council Aide	12th RMC
SOLANG, Vannie VJ.	Administrative Assistant	MVA
TABALIN, Noel T.	Council Aide	12th RMC
TAIMANAO, Ali B.	Firefighter	Dept. of Public Safety
TAIMANAO, Franco SN.	Council Aide	12th RMC
TAIMANAO, Jermain	Stock Clerk	3 Kings Ent Songsong
TAIMANAO, Thomas SN.	Project Inspector Assistant	DPW
TAKESHI, Abrahamson	Radio/Weather Observer	CPA
TAKESHI, Carmelita N.	Office Aide	Rota Jr HS
ULLOA, Felix U., Jr.	Council Aide	12th RMC
ULLOA, Robert Jr. B.	Fire Fighter	DPS

TINIAN		
NAME	PLACEMENT	AGENCY
ALVAREZ, Jeremiah M.	Youth Center Aide	Office of the Mayor
AQUININGOC, Liane M.	Library Aide	Office of the Mayor
AQUININGOC, Lucinda M.	Administrative Spec. I	MVA
AQUINO, Phylleshia M.	Recreation Trainee	DCCA Sports & Recreation
ATALIG, Khrysyne	Accounts Clerk	THC Accounting
AYUYU, Holly E.	Receptionist	CPA
AYUYU, Nick E.	Tariff Tech	CPA
BARCINAS, Evander G.	Youth Center Aide	Office of the Mayor
BARCINAS, Jan G.	Data Entry/Teacher Aide	Tinian Jr High School
BENGHIT, Renebhoy S.	Sports Trainee	DCCA Youth Services
BORJA, Anthony H.	Office Clerk	DCCA Community Development
BORJA, Craig H.	HPO Technician	Historic Preservation
BORJA, Esteban M., III	Trades Technician	THC Maintenance
BORJA, Julycia H.	Administrative Assistant	DCCA Administration
BORJA, Leanna M.	Data Entry Clerk	Bridge Investment Group
BORJA, Marthonia C.	Enforcement & Compliance	Retirement Fund
BORJA, Ramon H., Jr.	HPO Technician	DCCA Historic Preservation
BUGARIN, Marielle J.	Administrative Assistant	Office of the Mayor
CABAY, Jimual P.	Youth Center Aide	Office of the Mayor
CABRERA, Edwin B., Jr.	Administrative Assistant	12th TMC
CABRERA, Kulio B.	Job Placement Assistant	DOL
CABRERA, Steve R.	Law Enforcement Trainee	DOL
CEPEDA, Marynita C.	Recreation Technician	Tinian Youth Center
CEPEDA, Nikki C.	Office Clerk	DCCA Youth Services
CEPEDA, Peter C., Jr.	Youth Center Aide	Office of the Mayor
CLEMENTE, Kimberly M.	Administrative Assistant	Office of the Mayor
CRUZ, Alison P.	Office Clerk	DCCA Sports & Recreation
CRUZ, Brandon C.	Law Enforcement Trainee	DOL
CRUZ, Ervin C. Jr.	Youth Center Aide	Office of the Mayor
CRUZ, Genetta C.	Recreation Trainee	DCCA Sports & Recreation
CRUZ, Jamila C.	Office Clerk	DCCA Office on Aging
CRUZ, Jordan G.	Data Entry/Teacher Aide	Tinian Jr High School
CRUZ, Joseph S., Jr.	Youth Center Aide	Office of the Mayor
CRUZ, Kenny G., Jr.	Sports Trainee	DCCA Youth Services
CRUZ, Michelle M.	Office Clerk	CDA
CRUZ, Myrese N.	Administrative Assistant	Office of the Mayor
CRUZ, Shelina G.	Administrative Assistant	DCCA Administration
CRUZ, Sherlyn G.	Administrative Assistant	THC Administration
ENRIQUEZ, Edward A.	Pump Attendant	Tinian Fuel Services
ESPINOSA, Carl Q.	Env. Health Technician	THC BEH
ESPINOSA, Crystal Q.	Administrative Assistant	MVA
EVANGELISTA, Martina B.	Office Clerk	Historic Preservation
EVANGELISTA, Necie B.	Medical Records Clerk	THC Medical Records
EVANGELISTA, Paula B.	Office Clerk	THC Nursing
FAMAW, Christopher J.	Env. Health Technician	THC BEH
HOCOG, Joseph M.	Administrative Assistant	Office of the Mayor
HOFSCHNEIDER, Edward M.	Data Entry/Teacher Aide	Tinian Jr High School
HOFSCHNEIDER, Elmo M.	Weather Observer	CPA
IGNACIO, Jerome DLS.	Recreation Technician	Tinian Youth Center
IGNACIO, Joel DLS.	HPO Technician	DCCA Historic Preservation
LIBUT, Jim A.	Data Entry/Teacher Aide	Tinian Jr High School
LIZAMA, Donovan M.	Enforcement Trainee	DOC ABTC
MACARANAS, Ginella SN.	Law Enforcement Trainee	DOL
MANGLONA, Joey P.	Sports Trainee	DCCA Youth Services
MANGLONA, Trilana P.	Recreation Trainee	DCCA Sports & Recreation
MANIMTIM, Laraine A.	Office Clerk	DCCA Youth Services
MAPESO, Mark L.	Sports Trainee	DCCA Youth Services
MAUI, Asako P.	Env. Health Technician	THC BEH
MAUI, Develle P.	Administrative Assistant	THC Administration
MAUI, Malcolm P.	HPO Technician	DCCA Historic Preservation
MUNA, Kiana I.	Administrative Assistant	12th TMC
MUNDO, Genevie A.	Accounts Clerk	THC
NEDEDOG, Lisa Ann	Cashier	Tinian Fuel Services
OMAR, Virginia A.	Medical Referral Clerk	THC Medical Referral
PALACIOS, Dorsia A.	Receptionist	DPW
PAULINO, Jorgianna SN	Youth Center Aide	Office of the Mayor
SABLAN, Chantyll Q.	Recreation Technician	Tinian Youth Center
SAKISAT, Eda T.	Receptionist	DPW
SAN NICOLAS, Irenia	Clerk	Retirement Fund
SANTOS, Gabriel L., Jr.	Enforcement Trainee	DOC ABTC
SANTOS, Joel SN.	Youth Center Aide	Office of the Mayor
SANTOS, John SN.	Ports Police	CPA
SANTOS, Noelanie SN.	Office Clerk	DCCA Sports & Recreation
TAGUDAR, Edgar A.	ARFF	CPA
TAITINGFONG, Brian K.	ARFF	CPA
UNTALAN, Jaimelina K.	Env. Health Technician	THC BEH
UNTALAN, James K.	Youth Center Aide	Office of the Mayor
UNTALAN, Jobelly P.	Library Aide	Office of the Mayor
UNTALAN, Joebeth P.	Library Aide	Office of the Mayor
UNTALAN, Marcus G., Jr.	Ports Police	CPA
UNTALAN, Moses B.	Law Enforcement Trainee	DOL
UY, Jennifer G.	Administrative Assistant	Office of the Mayor
VILLAGOMEZ, Vicenta	Recreation Technician	Tinian Youth Center

WORLD BRIEFS

Bomb strikes Shiite market in Baghdad, killing 69

BAGHDAD (AP)—A bomb ripped through a crowded market in Baghdad's main Shiite district on Wednesday, killing at least 69 people and wounding more than 100 less than a week before a deadline for U.S. combat troops to leave Iraq's urban areas. A series of blasts this week have killed more than 160 people, as U.S. and Iraqi officials warned they expected more violence before the U.S. withdrawal from cities. American troops already have begun pulling back from the joint bases that they occupied with Iraqi security forces as part of a counterinsurgency strategy aimed at clearing volatile areas and holding them.

Netanyahu meeting called off with US Mideast envoy

PARIS (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's meeting in Paris with the top U.S. Mideast envoy was called off Wednesday in an apparent sign of growing friction over President Barack Obama's call for a halt to construction in Jewish settlements. The U.S. position could spell political trouble for Netanyahu, whose government depends on patrons of the settlers.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

RICARDO P. CASTRO and LORENZA P. CASTRO (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 8, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 16, 1998 under Document No. 98-3276 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 011 G 685

Containing an area of 845 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plate No. 011 G 14 dated December 1, 1993 , Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, dated December 3, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$40,230.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009**, at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

ANTONIA T. TEIGITA/ EFRAIN T. TEIGITA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about August 1, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on August 1, 1984 under Document No. 84-1366 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 003 B 16, and Containing an area of 1,117 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat Number 003 B 02, the original of which was registered with the Land Commission as Document 5979, on the 4th day of April, 1977.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on March 13, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on July 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$48,630.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **July 16, 2009**, at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than July 16, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director, NMHC

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Woman pleads guilty in drunken breast-feeding case

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP)—A North Dakota woman accused of breast-feeding her 6-week-old baby while drunk has pleaded guilty to child neglect. Stacey Anvarinia, 36, could face up to five years in prison when she's sentenced on the felony charge in August. Judge Sonja Clapp says Anvarinia will not have to register as an offender against children. Police officers who responded to a domestic disturbance call at Anvarinia's home on April 13 say they saw an intoxicated Anvarinia breast feeding. Health officials say alcohol consumed by breast-feeding mothers can be absorbed into an infant's system.

Suspicious item in Ohio luggage: Pickled mangoes

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio airport summoned a bomb squad to detonate a suspicious item that turned out to be pickled mangoes. X-ray equipment used by federal security screeners in Columbus could not detect what was inside a sealed canister in luggage being inspected around 7 p.m. Tuesday. The container was labeled "baby food," but authorities say security personnel became suspicious when the woman who owned the suitcase claimed the canister held pickles. A fire department bomb squad removed the item from the airport and detonated it, discovering the mangoes.

Mom, after 13 beers, can't recover custody of kids

FORT SMITH, Ark. (AP)—A mother who drank 13 beers before a psychological evaluation failed to recover custody of her three young children despite claiming she wasn't drunk because she "can drink like a fish." The woman wanted to get the children back from her husband's stepmother. The Arkansas Court of Appeals rejected her Wednesday, citing addictions, frequent absences and criminal activity to support her habits. It said the woman made no meaningful efforts to restructure her life. The children are ages 6, 4 and 4. The state took custody in 2007 when the woman's mother said she could no longer care for the children. Human Services workers later won an order declaring the children's mother unfit and want to see the children adopted.

Marmot causes ruckus at Wash. state restaurant

PROSSER, Wash. (AP)—Diners in a central Washington state wine town got a visit from a furry and unwelcome dinner guest. A big rodent called a marmot wandered in the front door of a restaurant in Prosser on Monday and settled into a corner. Marmots, closely related to ground squirrels, are a long-time problem in Prosser. They dig through gardens, chew electrical wires and foul front porches with droppings. The city paid a trapper $5,700 over two years to reduce the population but ran short of money last year. City Administrator Charlie Bush says several people in the restaurant helped make a makeshift tunnel out of advertising signs. With some gentle prodding, the marmot ran to freedom.

Police: Pa. neighbor blares porn to chase off kids

PHOENIXVILLE, Pa. (AP)—Police in suburban Philadelphia say a man fed up of children playing in his cul-de-sac blared a pornographic soundtrack to chase them off. Irate neighbors told police they could hear the sexually explicit audio a block and a half away. Police say Michael Buck faces a felony obscenity charge and two misdemeanors for the May 31 stunt at his upscale Phoenixville home. The 27-year-old Buck has a preliminary hearing scheduled for next month. Detective Tom Goggin says Buck had filed one previous complaint about the neighborhood children. He says the children clearly annoy Buck—but there's nothing criminal about playing outside.

Inmate uses toilet paper cardboard to escape cell

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)—Columbia police have captured an inmate who allegedly escaped from the Howard County jail using a cardboard toilet paper holder. Curtis Jones of New Franklin was captured Wednesday afternoon. Columbia police officers, who were responding to a tip, went to where Jones was believed to be located, but he had fled on foot. Jones was spotted a short time later and taken into custody. Jones had escaped early Monday. Authorities allege he used the folded cardboard to jam a door lock to his cell and fled when a jailer went to another area in the building. Jones was detained on a theft charge on suspicion of stealing anhydrous ammonia, a chemical used to manufacture methamphetamine. He previously escaped in 1996 from the county's old jail in Fayette by climbing through a hole in the ceiling.

Man nabbed for DUI accused of trying to bribe cops

ATHENS, Ala. (AP)—Athens Police Capt. Marty Bruce said a man arrested for driving under the influence faces additional charges after attempting to bribe two police officers to "go away." The man was charged Monday after officers Josh Garlen and Cortny Barksdale responded to a call about a fight. After resolving the dispute, Garlen and Barksdale advised the 29-year-old man to walk home because he was too intoxicated to drive. Bruce said as the officers were getting ready to leave, Garlen noticed the man in his vehicle backing onto the street and stopped him. Bruce said before arresting him for DUI, the man said he would give them $20 to go away. When they refused, he said, "OK, I will give you $100 to go away." The man was taken to the Limestone County Jail.

Man accused of stealing 88 panties from neighbor

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rico police said they have arrested a man accused of snatching 88 pieces of underwear from a neighbor's clothesline. The man was charged with theft and illegal appropriation. Police said Wednesday that he returned all $1,000 worth of underwear to the woman. They said he stole the items from his 29-year-old neighbor over a period of several months in the rural town of Orocovis. She apparently had to keep buying more to replace those that vanished from her line.

Woman pleads no contest in chips-for-sex case

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A woman has been fined $1,142 after pleading no contest to prostitution charges after she was accused of accepting a box of chips for sex. Police said they arrested 36-year-old Lahoma Sue Smith in southeast Oklahoma City after finding her in her car with a man who told officers he knew he could find a prostitute in the area. Smith told officers the man said he didn't have any money so she agreed to accept a $30 case of chips as payment.

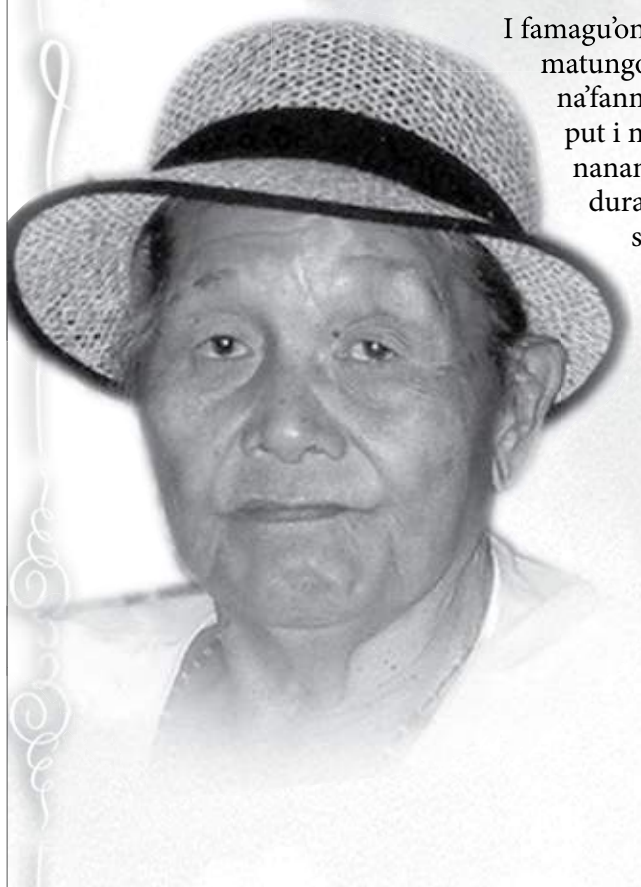
KC man urinating while sleepwalking stabbed

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A sleepwalking episode led to a stabbing. The Kansas City Star reported on its Web site Wednesday that the 24-year-old victim suffered a stab wound to his face and shoulder. Police said the victim's girlfriend awoke around 1:30 a.m. Wednesday to find her boyfriend urinating in the closet. He was intoxicated when he arrived at his apartment several hours earlier. Police said the man had a history of sleepwalking and ignored his girlfriend's repeated efforts to wake him up. He pushed her out of the way as he walked toward the kitchen, and she reportedly became scared that he might hit her. Police said she grabbed a knife and held it up as he approached. He sustained injuries that are believed to be non-life threatening.

1st Death Anniversary

Ana Songao Hocog

July 13, 1932 – July 6, 2008



I famagu'on La Difunta as †ANA SONGAO HOCOG, mas matungo' lokkue' as "NA"", "NAN NENA"", manmalago' na u na'fanmanungo' todu familia, parientes, yan manatungo' put i misa siha yan lisayon Primet Komple'anos finatai nanan-niha. I famagu'on ma deseseha na en dana'i siha gi duranten este na tiempon tinayuyut. I lisayu yan misa siha manma'ofreresi gi Gima' Yu'us San Isidro giya Sinapalo, yan Gima' Yu'us San Francisco de Borja, gi Sengsong, gi sigiente siha na fecha yan ora.

Guma' Yu'us San Isidro, Sinapalo, Luta:

- Hunio diha 28, 2009, Damenggo
  10:00 (a.m.) gi ega'an, Misa
  6:30 (p.m.) gi pupuenge, Lisayo
- Hunio diha 29, 2009 esta Hulio diha 4, 2009 (Lunes esta Sabalu)
  6:30 (p.m.) gi pupuenge, Lisayo
  7:00 (p.m.) gi pupuenge, Misa
- Hulio diha 5, 2009, Damenggo
  9:30 (a.m.) gi ega'an, Lisayo
  10:00 (a.m.) gi ega'an, Misa
- Hulio diha 6, Lunes – Ha'anen Komple'anos Finatai
  5:00 (p.m.) gi pupuenge, Lisayo
  5:30 (p.m.) gi pupuenge, Misa

Guma' Yu'us San Francisco de Borja, Songsong, Luta:
Misa ma'ofreresi kada oga'an gi oran alas 6:00 ginen i Damenggo, Hunio diha 28, 2009 esta Lunes, Hulio diha 6, 2009. Gi ha'anen komple'anos finatai-na gi Hulio diha 6, guaha responso despues de i misa, guatu gi Sumenteyon San Jose, Songsong, Luta.

I tinayuyut-miyu masen agradesi todu i tiempo.

Gi Hulio diha 6, Lunes – Ha'anen Komple'anos Finatai
5:00 (p.m.) gi pupuenge, Lisayo; 5:30 (p.m.) gi pupuenge, Misa
I famagu'on yan familia manmagof para en fan kinembida para i senan agradesimiento despues de i misa gi oran alas 5:30 gi pupuenge, guatu gi gima' Liz yan Paterno S. Hocog. Pot fabot, en tatanga na en dana'i ham guini na inagang. I tinayuyut-miyu yan finatton-miyu ma sen agradesi todu i tiempo. Si Yu'us Ma'ase' ya Si Yu'us u Bendisi Hit Todu i Tiempo.

Chris S/Dr. **Rita** Hocog Inos & famagu'on; Liz M/Sen. **Paterno** S. Hocog & famagu'on; **Mannex** S. Hocog: Bembe B/**Pete** Hocog & famagu'on; **Angel** S. Hocog; Joe/**Betsy** H. Apatang & hagan-niha; **Ed**/Ruby Hocog & famagu'on; Sinora Milagro H. Manglona (Nan Bago') yan Sinora Dolores B. Hocog (Nang).

KARIDAT

Victim's Advocate services are available through Karidat

What is Family Violence?

It's the mistreatment of one family member by another.

Family violence includes:

Physical abuse
- Slapping, Hitting, Burning, etc.

Sexual abuse
- Rape, Incest

Emotional abuse
- Threats, Insults, Harassment

Neglect
- Poor Physical or Emotional Care

Family violence is a crime. It is a widespread problem in our society.

Some family members suffer from domestic violence and it hurts everyone involved. If this is happening in your family, you can get help by visiting Karidat Social Service or call our telephone #234-5248/234-6981 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am through 5:00 pm and after working hours call the Hotline at 234-5100. You can also visit the Karidat Social Services Office in Chalan Kanoa.

This project was supported by Grant Number 2007-VA-GX-0030 and 2008-VA-GX-0046 awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) by the Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program, Office of the Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and sub-granted by the CJPA Supervisory Council.

Science & Technology

Make digital music files really sing

By KEVIN HUNT
(C) 2009, THE HARTFORD COURANT

The Music Streamer, a digital-to-analog converter that could fit in a butter dish, might be the most convincing argument yet to use a computer's music library for something other than an iPod's sugar daddy.

This $89 device accesses digital music files via USB, bypassing the computer's flimsy sound card, then quickly transforms them into analog signals sent out the other end to an awaiting sound system.

It takes an external converter like the Music Streamer, or the $99 Trends Audio UD-10.1 Lite, to show how easy it is for a computer's sound card to turn Chris Martin into William Hung.

The Music Streamer only hints at that type of sound yet still invigorates music downloads and even Internet radio when played though a sound system. It's recognized immediately by a PC (it's Mac-compatible, too) and requires only a USB cable at one end and a pair of standard RCA interconnects at the other.

The Music Streamer has been compared to $2,000-plus high-end converters, but it shaves off too much in the highest frequencies to qualify. It's good but not that good.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: Is it true that Microsoft's Service Pack 2 update for Windows Vista can free up disk space by deleting older patch files?

A: This new update—it should arrive as an automatic update soon, or you can download a complete installer from its Web site—includes a "Windows Component Clean Tool" that can remove files left behind in the installation of SP2 and earlier Microsoft updates.

(You may also see this called the "Service Pack Clean-up Tool" or referred to by its filename, "compcln.exe." Not that there's much documentation of the program; Microsoft's own technical notes barely mention it.)

To run this program, click Vista's Start menu, type "compcln.exe" into its search box, then hit Enter. After you click through Vista's User Account Control are-you-sure dialog, an old-fashioned, text-only DOS prompt will open and warn you that this program will make your installation of SP2 and earlier updates permanent and irreversible. Type "Y" to agree, and the DOS window will close when the program finishes the job.

On one Vista system, it only needed four minutes to free up a gigabyte or so of disk space, with no evident side effects. It's a nice little extra—even if having to run a DOS program in 2009 is ridiculous.

■■■

Q: This e-mail says that adding a fake address-book entry at the start of the alphabet—AAAAAAA@AAA.AAA—stops viruses from sending itself to people in my address book.

A: Nope. For one thing, why would a virus stop if it encounters a bad address? Remember, the virus is using *your* computer and *your* bandwidth. It doesn't care about being efficient.

For another thing, any alleged fix this old (the myth-busting site Snopes.com dates it to 2001) would have been noticed by virus authors long ago. These people have a cockroach-like tenacity when it comes to their "work."

Death and Funeral Announcement

Rosario Mendiola Cabrera Attao

"Nan Ari"

Born: September 30, 1924, of Chalan Piao, Saipan
Peacefully joined her Creator on June 24, 2009 at the age of 84.

In her new life, Rosario now joins her
Husband: Jose San Nicolas Attao

Parents: Jose Palacios Cabrera & Maria Mendiola Cabrera

Parents-in-Law: Vicente Magofna Attao & Natividad San Nicolas Attao

Brothers/Sisters/In-Laws:
Roberto M. & Vicenta C. Tudela, Francisca & Pedro Borja, Celia C. & Antonio D. Reyes, Ramona C. & Manuel S. Sablan, Gabriel M. & Rosa E. Cabrera, Vicente M. & Maria DLC Cabrera, Alfred F. Santos, Francisco & Rosa Torres, Pedro SN & Ninfa Attao, Maria A. & Alejandro Bermudes, Carmen A. Concepcion, Isabel A. & Ignacio Benavente, Teresita SN Attao, Margarita A. Duenas

Rosario's loving memory will forever be treasured by her Children, Grand/Great grand Children and other members of her family:

Children/Spouses & their families:
Vicente C. & Elizabeth A. Attao: Ina *(Juanda, Naomi, John Jr.)*, Kristine *(Kristina, Samuel, James Jr.)*, Catherine & Mark Toves *(Joseph, Markel, Theresa, Merrick, Markus)*;
Celina A. & Aldebert Concepcion *(Aldebert Jr. & Carminadela N. Concepcion (Aldebert III, Joseph, Brian)*, Christopher, Kimberly, Michael;
Maria Ramona *(Marlene)* **A. & Ricardo P. Balajadia** (Ricardo Jr. *(Sierra)*, Brian John)

Brothers/Sisters/In-Laws:
Probio M. & Trinidad "Mitch" DLC Cabrera, **Martha C. Santos, Vicenta C.** & George L. Teregeyo, Cesario Concepcion, George Duenas

Extended Family: Florencia "Flo" Gacutan (Richard), Clifford & Merle Sakamoto

She will also be missed by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and other relatives and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. (9:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 28).
Nightly Rosary is being held at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 p.m.
On Thursday, July 2, 2009, her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Internment follows at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You
Ginen I Famaguon-na yan Familia

Life & Style

Perez Hilton sues Black Eyed Peas manager

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Perez Hilton struck back Wednesday with a civil lawsuit filed against the Black Eyed Peas manager accused of hitting him outside a Toronto nightclub.

The celebrity blogger, whose real name is Mario Lavandeira, sued the Peas' road manager in Los Angeles for battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress. He is seeking unspecified damages of more than $25,000.

The suit states Hilton is seeking to protect his rights to free speech and claims Polo Molina attacked him because he made critical comments about the Black Eyed Peas' new album. Molina was arrested in Toronto early Monday after he allegedly punched Hilton following a heated argument between the blogger and Black Eyed Peas leader will.i.am.

AP

In this image released by Perez Hilton, celebrity blogger Perez Hilton is shown with an injury beneath his eye, Monday, June 22, 2009, in Toronto.

An e-mail sent to the group's publicist was not immediately returned Wednesday. Molina is due to appear in court Aug. 5.

"Perez Hilton was assaulted by the band's road manager because he would not agree to stop writing about the Black Eyed Peas on his Web site Perezhilton.com," Bryan Freedman, Hilton's lawyer, said in a statement. "Whether you love Perez or hate him, he is entitled to his freedom of speech without fear of physical violence. This lawsuit will make the statement that violence is never the answer." The lawsuit details the events leading up to Molina's alleged attack on the blogger.

The complaint states Black Eyed Peas vocalist Fergie approached Hilton on Saturday and asked why he was writing "mean" things about her and the group. Hilton replied that he was "simply being honest and truthful about his opinions of them," according to the lawsuit.

On Sunday, Hilton claims he was pushed by an unidentified member of the Black Eyed Peas' entourage, who "slammed his shoulder into Hilton's shoulder and thereafter pushed him."

The lawsuit claims Fergie again approached him at an afterparty for the MuchMusic Video Awards on Sunday night and that his argument with will.i.am happened at another party. The lawsuit claims the blogger was trying to leave that party when Molina punched him at least three times.

Hilton, who is openly gay, said Monday that he called will.i.am a "faggot," a gay slur, inside the club after the musician told the blogger not to write about his band on his Web site.

He posted about the attack on the popular microblogging site Twitter on Monday, and has since rejected a call by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation to apologize for using the term.

The Black Eyed Peas' newest album, "The E.N.D," has proved popular, ranking No. 1 on last week's Billboard magazine's charts for R&B/Hip-Hop albums. Singles from the album have also proved popular in other rankings.

"Lavandeira sustained injury to his eye and was bleeding as a result of this violent and malicious attack," the lawsuit claims.

His damage claims include medical costs and damages due to "humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional and physical distress." The lawsuit also claims that Molina is on probation in California for a drunken driving conviction under his real name, Liborio Molina.

Cops question British celeb about robbery of paparazzi

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—Police in the Bahamas are investigating the robbery of two paparazzi a few hours after they snapped shots of British pop idol Robbie Williams lounging on an exclusive beach in Exuma and argued with his entourage.

Superintendent Ellsworth Moss, who heads the detective unit of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, said Wednesday that investigators had questioned Williams about the early Sunday robbery of the two celebrity photographers who traveled to Staniel Cay to sneak photos of the vacationing singer.

Moss stressed that Williams was not a suspect.

"We don't think he was the one who actually committed the robbery, but it may have been a spinoff or may have been triggered by what reportedly happened with his party on the beach," he said.

A phone call to Williams' representative in London was not answered.

The paparazzi—Matt Sanchez of Splash News & Picture Agency and freelancer Carlos Mendez—told police they got into a shouting match with Williams' entourage while they photographed the star with zoom lenses. Hours later, they alleged, four armed men broke into their rented room and stole $20,000 worth of cameras and other equipment.

SAIPAN COMMUTER TERMINAL
PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM INSTALLATION
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-009-09
DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

1st AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Design and Installation of a Public Address System at the Saipan Commuter Terminal at the airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Design and installation timeframe;
- Project Approach;
- Design-Build Construction Team;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License;
- Related past project performance;
- List of completed similar projects;
- List of experienced personnel and résumé's; and
- Proof of insurance requirements as provided in Proposal Package.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan Commuter Terminal Public Address System Installation– Design/Build Services". The proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

An on-site pre-proposal meeting will be conducted and interested proposers are required to attend. No proposals from non-attendees will be accepted. The on-site pre-proposal meeting will be held on ~~June 9, 2009 at 10:00 am~~ at the Saipan Commuter Terminal Building, Saipan Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax as well as associated costs for airport security badges.

The Project is being financed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

The contract period for design and replacement will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: June 10, 2009

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Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen
Fri. and Sat. 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun. thru Tue. 1:00 4:00 7:00
Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox
Sci-Fi Action • Rated PG-13

Synopsis
The battle for Earth has ended but the battle for the universe has just begun. After returning to Cybertron, Starscream assumes command of the Decepticons, and has decided to return to Earth with force. The Autobots believing that peace was possible finds out that Megatron's dead body has been stolen from the US Military by Skorpinox and revives him using his own spark. Now Megatron is back seeking revenge and with Starscream and more Decepticon reinforcements on the way,

My Sister's Keeper
Fri. and Sat. 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:55
Sun. thru Tue. 1:30 4:25 7:20
Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin
Family Drama • Rated PG-13

Synopsis
Conceived as a marrow donor for her gravely ill sister, Anna Fitzgerald (Abigail Breslin) has undergone countless surgeries and medical procedures in her short life. Though their older daughter's life has no doubt been prolonged, the unorthodox decision of Anna's parents has cracked the entire family's foundation. When Anna sues her parents for emancipation, it sets off a court case that threatens to destroy the family for good.

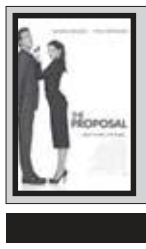
★ ★ ★

BFF (Best Friends Forever)
Fri. and Sat. 1:05 4:05 7:10 9:35
Sun. thru Tue. 1:05 4:05 7:10
Sharon Cuneta, Ai Ai Delas Alas
Prehistoric Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis
Best Friends Forever movie (BFF) is the new film that stars the Mega Star Ms. Sharon Cuneta and the comedy concert Queen Ms. Ai Ai Delas Alas. I'm not so sure why it's already out and being promoted but then, all I know is that it was made just a few months ago as far as I can remember it. This is a comedy film so it does not necessarily have to take years to finish, in fact, these types of movies are the type that's really very easy to finish especially if the actors and actresses are professional.

Year One
Fri. and Sat. 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sun. thru Tue. 1:10 4:15 7:30
Jack Black, Michael Cera
Drama Comedy • Rated PG-13

Taking of Pelham 123
Fri. and Sat. 1:20 4:20 7:05 9:50
Sun. thru Tue. 1:20 4:20 7:05
Denzel Washington, John Travolta
Thriller • Rated R



The Proposal
Fri. and Sat. 1:15 4:10 7:15 9:40
Sun. thru Tue. 1:15 4:10 7:15
Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13

The Hangover
Fri. and Sat. 1:25 4:30 7:25 9:30
Sun. thru Tue. 1:25 4:30 7:25
Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms
Comedy • Rated R

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Jive-talking twin Transformers raise race issues

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Harmless comic characters or racist robots? The buzz over the summer blockbuster "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" only grew Wednesday as some said two jive-talking Chevy characters were racial caricatures. Skids and Mudflap, twin robots disguised as compact hatchbacks, constantly brawl and bicker in rap-inspired street slang. They're forced to acknowledge that they can't read. One has a gold tooth.

As good guys, they fight alongside the Autobots and are intended to provide comic relief. But their traits raise the specter of stereotypes most notably seen when Jar Jar Binks, the clumsy, broken-English speaking alien from "Star Wars: Episode I-The Phantom Menace," was criticized as a caricature.

One fan called the Transformers twins "Jar Jar Bots" in a blog post online.

Todd Herrold, who watched the movie in New York City, called the characters "outrageous."

"It's one thing when robot cars are racial stereotypes," he said, "but the movie also had a bucktoothed black guy who is briefly in one scene who's also a stereotype."

"They're like the fools," said 18-year-old Nicholas Govede, also of New York City. "The comic relief in a degrading way."

Not all fans were offended. Twin brothers Jason and William Garcia, 18, who saw the movie in Miami, said they related to the characters—not their illiteracy, but their bickering.

"They were hilarious," Jason said. "Every movie has their standout character, and I think they were the ones for this movie."

In Atlanta, Rico Lawson said people were reading too much into the characters. "It was actually funny," said Lawson, 25, who saw the movie with his girlfriend in Atlanta.

That was the aim, director Michael Bay said in an interview.

"It's done in fun," he said. "I don't know if it's stereotypes—they are robots, by the way. These are the voice actors. This is kind of the direction they were taking the characters and we went with it."

Bay said the twins' parts "were kind of written but not really written, so the voice actors is when we started to really kind of come up with their characters."

Actor Reno Wilson, who is black, voices Mudflap. Tom Kenny, the white actor behind SpongeBob SquarePants, voices Skids.

AP

In this film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, twin robots, Skids, left, and Mudflap are shown in a scene from, "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen.

Wilson said Wednesday that he never imagined viewers might consider the twins to be racial caricatures. When he took the role, he was told that the alien robots learned about human culture through the Web and that the twins were "wannabe gangster types."

"It's an alien who uploaded information from the Internet and put together the conglomeration and formed this cadence, way of speaking and body language that was accumulated over X amount of years of information and that's what came out," the 40-year-old actor said. "If he had uploaded country music, he would have come out like that."

It's not fair to assume the characters are black, he said.

"It could easily be a Transformer that uploaded Kevin Federline data," Wilson said. "They were just like posers to me."

Kenny did not respond to an interview request Wednesday.

"I purely did it for kids," the director said. "Young kids love these robots, because it makes it more accessible to them."

Screenwriters Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman said they followed Bay's lead in creating the twins. Still, the characters aren't integral to the story, and when the action gets serious, they disappear entirely, notes Tasha Robinson, associate entertainment editor at The Onion.

"They don't really have any positive effect on the film," she said. "They only exist to talk in bad ebonics, beat each other up and talk about how stupid each other is."

Hollywood has a track record of using negative stereotypes of black characters for comic relief, said Todd Boyd, a professor of popular culture at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, who has not seen the "Transformers" sequel.

"There's a history of people getting laughs at the expense of African-Americans and African-American culture," Boyd said. "These images are not completely divorced from history even though it's a new movie and even though they're robots and not humans."

American cinema also has a tendency to deal with race indirectly, said Allyson Nadia Field, an assistant professor of cinema and media studies at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"There's a persistent dehumanization of African-Americans throughout Hollywood that displaces issues of race onto non-human entities," said Field, who also hasn't seen the film. "It's not about skin color or robot color. It's about how their actions and language are coded racially."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Elisabeth Hasselbeck: No merit to plagiarism claim

BOSTON (AP)—"The View" co-host Elisabeth Hasselbeck says a claim that she plagiarized parts of her best-selling diet book is "without merit." Hasselbeck defended her book "The G-Free Diet: A Gluten-Free Survival Guide" on Wednesday, speaking to the camera briefly just before the first break on the ABC daytime show. Susan Hassett, a self-published author on Cape Cod, alleges in the lawsuit filed in Massachusetts that Hasselbeck lifted content from her book on celiac disease "word for word." It doesn't cite specific examples. The lawsuit also says the books have a similar organization and chapter format. Hassett says she sent Hasselbeck her book as a courtesy after Hasselbeck disclosed she had the digestive disorder last year.

David Mamet sets world premiere for fall

NEW YORK (AP)—New York is getting another David Mamet (MAM'-eht) world premiere. "School," a one-act play by the author of "American Buffalo" and "Speed-the-Plow," will be half of a double bill opening Sept. 30 at off-Broadway's Atlantic Theater Company. It will be joined by "Keep Your Pantheon," which is set in ancient Rome and was seen last year in Los Angeles. Previews begin Sept. 9. Already on tap for the new season is "Race," starring James Spader and Richard Thomas. It opens on Broadway in December. The Atlantic season will also include the American premiere of Sam Shepard's "Ages of the Moon," which looks at the reunion of two old friends. It begins performances Jan. 9.

Nora Ephron brings stories of clothes to the stage

NEW YORK (AP)—Funny what kind of memories that clothes and fashion accessories can trigger. They are the subject of "Love, Loss and What I Wore," a series of vignettes and monologues by screenwriters Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron heading to off-Broadway. The 12-week engagement will feature three different five-person casts, performing in four-week cycles. Among the performers signed for the project are Tyne Daly and Rosie O'Donnell. The collection of stories opens Oct. 1 at the off-Broadway's Westside Theatre. Previews begin Sept. 21.

Paul McCartney to play benefit in Atlanta park

ATLANTA (AP)—Paul McCartney is coming to Atlanta for a summer concert to benefit the city's historic Piedmont Park. The Piedmont Conservancy that cares for the city park said Wednesday that the 67-year-old ex-Beatle will perform in the park on Aug. 15. The show is expected to dwarf the conservancy's 2007 Dave Matthews Band and The Allman Brothers Band show that attracted 50,000. Money raised goes to maintaining and expanding the sprawling and heavily used park in the shadow of Midtown Atlanta's skyscrapers. The park dates back to a private club founded in 1887.

Dad sells family heirlooms to impress new girlfriend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My mother passed away last year, and my whole world has been rocked. To make it worse, my father has been acting like a little boy. Soon after Mom's death, he met a woman. Since then, he has not included me and my siblings in any decisions regarding Mom's belongings—including expensive and sentimental things that have been in our family for years.

When we ask Dad about the items, he says, "They're mine now," or, "You have nothing to do with them." Mom prided herself on these antiques that have stayed in the family. We would like to pass them on to our children and their cousins, but Dad has been selling them and using the money to pay for his lifestyle.

Am I wrong for feeling that Dad is acting like a spoiled brat? Talking to him is useless. He responds like a kid at the playground whose friends won't play the way he likes.

LET DOWN BY DAD IN N.Y.

DEAR LET DOWN: Although it may not seem like it, your mother's death may have rocked your father's world, too. It is regrettable that the "mechanism" he has chosen to help him through the grieving process is so expensive he must sell family assets to afford her. However, unless your mother left a will specifying what items she wanted you and your siblings to have, then they are legally your father's to dispose of as he wishes. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I've been single for a year and a half, and have four children. After 14 miserable years, I finally left their father. He abused me in many ways, which is the reason I left.

He is now in a relationship -- and I want him back. Is this normal? I thought I left for all the right reasons, and I never expected to feel this way. I can't understand why my feelings for him are starting to resurface. I thought that part of my life was over.

Is it because I'm alone? Is it because he has someone else? Am I jealous? Please give me some insight. I'm ...

DAZED IN ARIZONA

DEAR DAZED: The feelings you are experiencing are normal and are probably a combination of each of the reasons you mentioned. You have the responsibility of raising your four children, and you probably envision you and your ex floating off on a pink cloud to a happy ending. Well, grab the smelling salts because it isn't going to happen.

By leaving your husband and removing the children from that toxic environment, you took a giant step toward a healthy future for all of you. Your husband is an abuser. What he did to you he will do to his new lady friend sooner or later. So be glad you got out, and don't look back. Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. If you do it, you'll be frozen in place, too.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Will you please settle a dispute between my best friend and me? If you are attending a non-military wedding, should your male escort wear his military uniform? My friend says it's an honor to be in the service, and it's perfectly acceptable for a guest to wear a uniform to the wedding.

DEBBIE IN BALTIMORE

DEAR DEBBIE: Wearing a military uniform to a wedding is "perfectly acceptable," but it would be wise to first ask the bride how she feels about it. She may object because there have been instances in which the serviceperson cut such a dashing figure in his uniform that he (almost) overshadowed the bride.

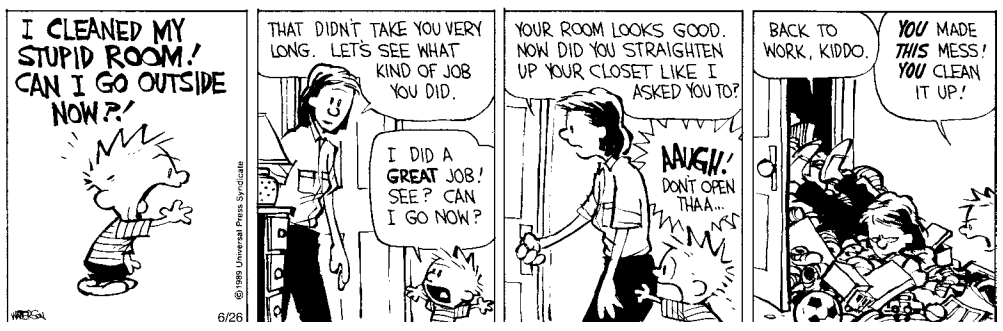
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I CLEANED MY STUPID ROOM! CAN I GO OUTSIDE NOW?!
THAT DIDN'T TAKE YOU VERY LONG. LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF JOB YOU DID.
I DID A GREAT JOB! SEE? CAN I GO NOW?
YOUR ROOM LOOKS GOOD. NOW DID YOU STRAIGHTEN UP YOUR CLOSET LIKE I ASKED YOU TO?
AAUGH! DON'T OPEN THAA...
BACK TO WORK, KIDDO.
YOU MADE THIS MESS! YOU CLEAN IT UP!
6/26
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

JON! YOU SHOULDN'T LEAVE THESE THINGS OUT!
I MIGHT EAT ONE!
FEAR NOT, MY DEAR. I'LL PROTECT YOU
JIM DAVIS 6-26
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www.garfield.com
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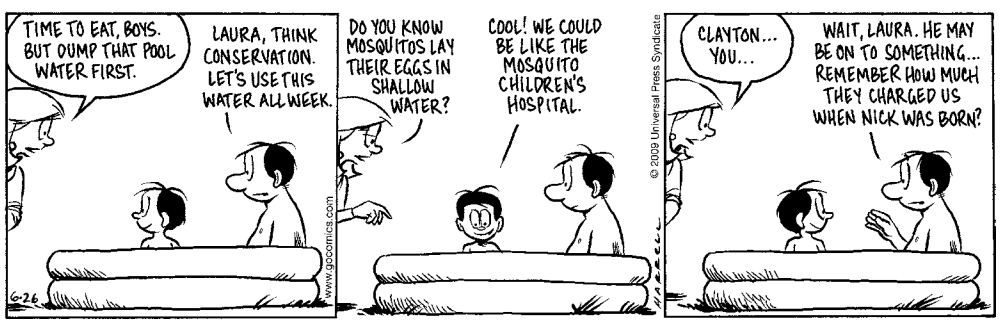
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


TIME TO EAT, BOYS. BUT DUMP THAT POOL WATER FIRST.
LAURA, THINK CONSERVATION. LET'S USE THIS WATER ALL WEEK.
DO YOU KNOW MOSQUITOS LAY THEIR EGGS IN SHALLOW WATER?
COOL! WE COULD BE LIKE THE MOSQUITO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.
CLAYTON... YOU...
WAIT, LAURA. HE MAY BE ON TO SOMETHING... REMEMBER HOW MUCH THEY CHARGED US WHEN NICK WAS BORN?
6-26
www.gocomics.com
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Y'KNOW, DON, I'LL BET IT COSTS THE GOVERNMENT A LOT OF MONEY TO GIVE EX-MOBSTERS LIKE YOU A NEW IDENTITY.
NOT REALLY.
© 2009 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Totally dominate
4 Right on the map?
8 Liking a lot
12 Shooter ammo
13 Jubilation
14 Disposition
15 Where salmon go to spawn
17 Motivate
18 Gazing one
19 Chart format
21 "Guinness Book" suffix
22 Transmission to a spacecraft
26 Rural buildings
29 "No seats"
30 Dress in
31 Supplemented, with "out"
32 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
33 — gin fizz
34 Dead heat
35 Happiness
36 Public squabble
37 "You betcha!"
39 Spring mo.
40 Smokestack output
41 Shamelessly bold
45 Dixieland music
48 Entry on a team's schedule
50 Bassoon's cousin
51 Wine's aroma
52 Yank
53 Implement
54 Active one
55 Early bird?

DOWN
1 Piece of work
2 Sobbed
3 Houston acronym
4 Exit
5 On the qui vive
6 Poseidon's realm
7 Deep-fried recipe
8 Urge
9 Neither mate
10 As well
11 Peculiar
16 Pollster's find
20 Wall St. debut
23 Between jobs
24 Lunchtime, often
25 Banjo supporter
26 — carotene
27 In the same family
28 50-Across need
29 Agent
32 Rancher
33 Rawboned person
35 Alcott book, "— Boys"
36 More agile
38 The Baxters' maid
39 Humiliate
42 Fill till full
43 Complacent
44 Safecracker
45 Least bit
46 Blood-group letters
47 Menagerie
49 Court

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	O	U	R	■	G	N	A	W	■	L	A	P
I	O	T	A	■	L	O	P	E	■	I	C	E
S	P	A	G	H	E	T	T	I	■	B	R	A
A	S	H	O	R	E	■	■	R	A	R	E	R
■	■	■	U	S	■	B	A	D	G	E	■	■
F	A	C	T	■	G	E	L	■	O	T	I	S
E	G	O	■	U	T	E	■	■	T	A	P	■
W	E	N	D	■	A	T	E	■	L	I	M	A
■	■	F	E	R	M	I	■	W	E	■	■	■
O	P	E	R	A	■	■	J	I	G	S	A	W
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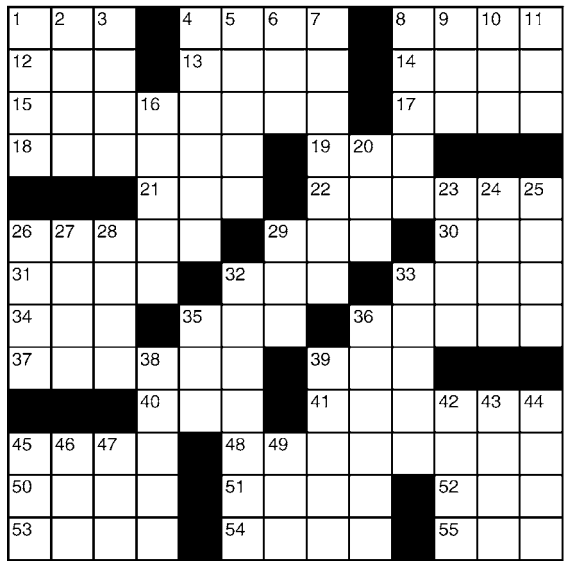
L	E	I	■	R	I	O	T	■	D	A	M	E

Yesterday's answer 6-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Derek Jeter, 35; Chris O'Donnell, 39; Harriet Wheeler, 46; Chris Isaak, 53

Happy Birthday: You have to be on your toes and ready to take a pass if temptation is hovering. Now is not the time to expand but rather to buckle down and secure your position personally, professionally and financially. Watch for better opportunities. You will impress others with your ability to size up a situation accurately. Your numbers are 4, 16, 17, 23, 25, 37, 49

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: Do things that make you feel good about yourself. You need to enjoy the company of people who can offer you inspiration and motivation in order to continue in a direction that excites you. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: You'll be tempted to spend on things you don't need. Emotional matters will grow if you don't put an end to the things you don't agree with. If you don't stand up for what you want, no one else will. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Simple acts will deserve praise but anyone trying to take advantage of you must be put in his or her place. Play on the emotions of those who can help you sort through whatever dilemma you face and it will be difficult for anyone giving you a hard time to win. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Keep an open mind and a clear sense of what's true and what's fabricated. Hold on to your thoughts until everyone else has revealed their position. Don't be afraid to suggest a major change if that is what's required. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: You may want to slow down if you are involved in a financial transaction. There is something unusual that must be uncovered before you take a risk. Creative thinking and fast maneuvers will be required to move forward. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Stay on top of what's being said and done by others and you will not lose control of a situation that needs your undivided attention. Ask questions and avoid an unpleasant surprise. Put some time aside for a little adventure and personal gratification. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Attend events, activities or social functions that are conducive to meeting creative people. An unusual chance to hook up with someone from your past or a partner who has something to offer is apparent. The interest is not romantic. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Money is heading your way through a partnership, investment or hard work finally paying off. Someone you love may sidetrack you. Don't give in until you have finished what needs to be done. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: Expect to pay for past mistakes. You can resolve old debts and issues before you start something new. Moving forward with baggage will stifle your plans. Changing your mind will work against you. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: The alterations you make to some of your personal papers will save you a bundle at a future date. Taking care of domestic matters will pay off. You can add to your property or make a move that will allow greater versatility. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Don't take what you hear as gospel. Someone you respect may let you down or give you false information unintentionally. Mean what you say and say what you mean or limitations will result when you least expect. A serious approach will be respected. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: A secret will come back to haunt you if you don't clear the air. A valued friend will object to something you did in the past that altered both of your futures. It's never too late to reverse a mistake you made. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a great communicator and storyteller. You are curious about life and are a philosopher, a student and a teacher.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	8	6					
	3			7				
	7		9					
9			7					
	8	7				1	3	
					1			5
					3		4	
				9			8	
					2	7	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Thursday's SUDOKU Answer

3	2	8	4	5	1	9	7	6
5	4	6	7	8	9	3	1	2
7	1	9	3	6	2	5	8	4
8	7	1	5	4	6	2	3	9
9	3	4	2	7	8	6	5	1
2	6	5	9	1	3	7	4	8
1	8	3	6	9	5	4	2	7
6	5	7	8	2	4	1	9	3
4	9	2	1	3	7	8	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BAVARIAN MARITAL CUSTOMS **Solution: 7 letters**

A	S	S	E	I	N	N	E	P	S	E	H	S	I	W
L	N	N	C	M	E	S	Y	H	C	R	U	H	C	R
T	R	E	O	D	C	I	T	I	T	D	A	N	C	E
A	O	O	I	B	U	H	R	F	O	L	K	S	P	D
R	R	A	N	G	B	E	A	L	I	E	V	N	O	A
G	M	D	S	O	H	I	P	P	A	G	O	I	L	L
S	H	O	N	T	I	B	R	H	E	E	W	A	T	S
D	U	O	A	A	R	T	O	P	S	L	S	R	E	T
E	S	F	T	E	L	N	A	R	L	T	S	G	R	I
W	B	L	A	S	E	R	O	T	S	S	A	(R)	A	E
Y	A	D	D	Y	E	H	A	E	I	S	L	(I)	B	Z
L	N	L	M	N	W	I	V	G	U	V	T	(N)	E	H
W	D	O	T	A	R	R	R	A	S	O	N	(G)	N	C
E	O	S	S	Z	A	I	S	P	U	B	S	I	D	O
N	E	S	O	H	R	E	D	E	L	E	S	U	O	H

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Altar, Bread, Chapel, Church, Coins, Dance, Dirndl, Father, Folk, Food, Garland, Gifts, Grains, Groom, Harvests, Hochzeitslader, Honeymoon, House, Husband, Invitation, Lederhosen, Maiden, Neighbors, Newlyweds, Parents, Party, Pennies, Polterabend, Priest, Pubs, Ribbons, Rice, Ring, Salt, Sausage, Sawhorse, Song, Toast, Veil, Vows, Waltz, Wishes

Yesterday's Answer: Canada

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 or 28, send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6450. Order online at uexpuzzles.com.

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• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

FIELD

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Find today's solution in this section

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Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500
FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website:cpa.gov.mp

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is pleased to announce that a Summer Internship Program is available for Engineering, Architectural and Accounting students. Applicants must have completed 1 year of University level courses from a U.S. accredited university.

The Summer Internship program is for approximately 2 months. Interested students are encouraged to apply at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd floor Arrival Wing) or CPA's Human Resource Office (2nd Floor Departure Wing) of the Saipan International Airport, or it may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp

EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF ALI ANICA RENEE INDALECIO GIBSON,
Minor Child,
by.
FRANK L. GIBSON,
Petitioner.

FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0319

NOTICE OF HEARING

REGARDING PROPOSED ADOPTION OF Ali Anica Renee Indalecio Gibson (Born April 30, 2003)

Please take notice that the hearing regarding the proposed adoption of **Ali Anica Renee Indalecio Gibson** by Frank L. Gibson will be held at the Commonwealth Superior Court, on July 2, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.

Ali Anica Renee Indalecio Gibson was born on April 30, 2003 in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The petition for the adoption of **Ali Anica Renee Indalecio Gibson** is sealed. However, a copy of the petition will be provided to any person that requests a copy before the date of the hearing and is able to demonstrate that they are or may be an interested person to **Ali Anica Renee Indalecio Gibson**'s adoption, as determined by CNMI law. If you believe that you are an interested person, a copy of the petition may be obtained by contacting Sean E. Frink at the Carlsmith Ball LLP, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone (670) 322-3455; Fax (670) 322-3368; E-mail: sfrink@carlsmith.com.

Failure of interested persons to appear at the hearing and provide their objections will result in them forever waiving any rights that they may have to contest this adoption.

DATED: June 25, 2009.

/s/ **SEAN E. FRINK**
Attorney at Law

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Across from IT&E, completely furnished, A/C, washer/dryer, 24-hr. CUC/rainwater, ceiling fans, walk-in closet, clean, well-maintained. 1BR $425/mo, 2BR $525/mo. Call Ed at 788-6268 or 235-0409

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JOETEN DANDAN
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Centrally located in Garapan, fenced yard, equipped with water reserve tank, split type air-conditioners in every room. Nice and friendly neighborhood.
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NMHC applicants welcome!

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PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-GOV-111

Susupe Major League Baseball Park Renovations

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Susupe Major League Baseball Park Renovations, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Thursday, June 18, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. A $100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by the CNMI and Federal laws.

There will be a mandatory Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on June 29, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the project site, Tan Ko Palacios Baseball Field, Susupe. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 01, 2009 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director, Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or fax (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB09-GOV-111"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, July 07, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:00 p.m. local time July 07, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 07, 2009 and must be received no later than July 16, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 17, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 07, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars **($250.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by one hundred twenty (120) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-028

SUGAR DOCK DREDGING AND INSTALLATION OF SIGNAGES AT SUGAR DOCK, FISHING BASE, DFW AND TANAPAG LAUNCHING RAMPS

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Sugar Dock Dredging and Installation of Signages at Sugar Dock, Fishing Base, DFW and Tanapag Launching Ramps, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **(CNMI)**.

The project package will be available on or after June 19, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procuredures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permamnent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further **Amended by Public Law 15-118** and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if perference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on July 7, 2009, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Division of Fish & Wildlife Conference Room. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 10, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-028"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time July 14, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time July 14, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 14, 2009, and must be received no later than July 23, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 28, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 17, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Thirty **(30)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per working day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Dr. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ, DVM
Secretary, Department of Lands and Natural Resources

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 09-028

"Laptops and Related Equipments for Rota High School"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, of **Laptops and Related Equipments** for Rota High School. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-028"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **July 8, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.,** at which time bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 09-030

"Navajo Playground for WSR Elementary School"

The public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase and installation of **Navajo Playground for William S REYES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (WRS)**. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950

All bids must placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-030"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan , MP 96950, no later than **July 8, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.**, at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under and circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**

/S/ **Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.**
Commissioner of Education

/S/ **Robert Florian**
Procurement & Supply Officer

Source: Cavaliers close to trade for Shaq

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cleveland Cavaliers are close to acquiring center Shaquille O'Neal in a trade with the Phoenix Suns, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The teams have reached an agreement in principle on the deal, which would unite O'Neal with Cavaliers superstar LeBron James, the NBA's MVP.

O'Neal will join Cleveland in exchange for center Ben Wallace, guard Sasha Pavlovic, a second-round draft pick (No. 46 overall) and cash, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the league still must approve the deal.

Yahoo! Sports first reported the deal.

The trade, which the sides had been discussing for months, gives the Suns financial flexibility in the future. O'Neal has just one season left on a $20 million contract and Wallace, who ended last season saying he may retire, is in the final year of a $14 million deal.

In Cleveland, O'Neal could be the missing piece for James to win a first championship. The 7-foot hoops icon certainly gives the city a surge of star power.

O'Neal's addition gives Cleveland some much needed size in its frontcourt. The Cavs couldn't stop Orlando center Dwight Howard in the Eastern Conference finals, losing the series in six games and seeing a 66-win regular season and deep playoff run come up short.

O'Neal can still bang inside, which is why Cavaliers general manager Danny Ferry tried to acquire him before the trading deadline in February.

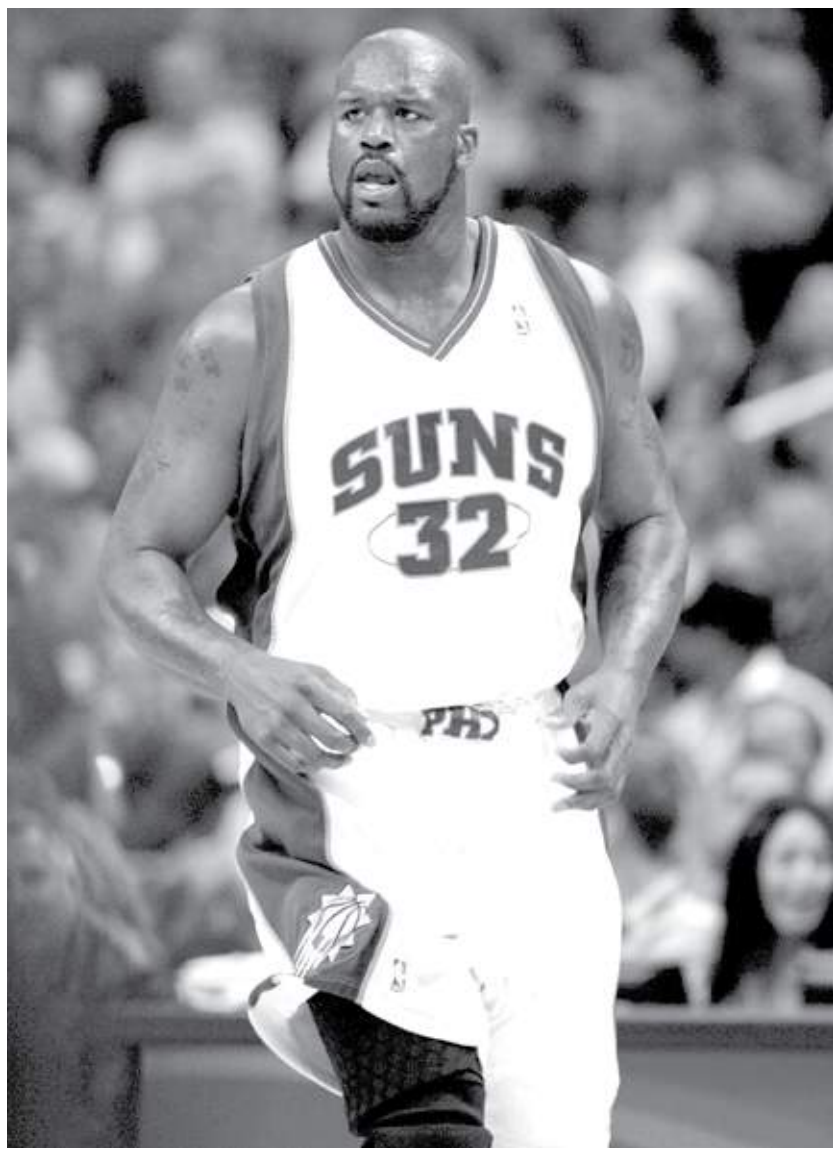
The Suns were a West-leading 34-14 when they acquired O'Neal in February 2008. He averaged 17.8 points and 8.4 rebounds last season and appeared in his 15th All-Star game, stealing the show with a goofy dance during pregame introductions at U.S. Airways Center.

O'Neal answered to "the Big Cactus" in the desert, but the plodding 7-foot-1, 325-pounder seemed a strange fit with the up-tempo Suns.

Popular coach Mike D'Antoni, who reportedly pushed management to acquire Shaq, left at the end of O'Neal's first season. D'Antoni was replaced by Terry Porter, who was fired in midseason after a failed attempt to get the team to play better defense.

The Suns won one playoff game in O'Neal's 1 1/2 seasons—and last spring they failed to qualify for the postseason for the first time since 2004.

Soon after the season ended, speculation began to grow that the club was looking to deal O'Neal while his trade value was still high.



In this April 3, 2009 photo, Phoenix Suns center Shaquille O'Neal runs up the court against the Sacramento Kings during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Phoenix.

AP

Sharapova exits early at Wimbledon; Federer wins

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Give Maria Sharapova credit for honesty. Before Wimbledon began, she acknowledged that a recent comeback from shoulder surgery made it too much to ask for her to contend seriously for a second title at the All England Club. Sharapova was right: She didn't even make it out of the second round. Playing poorly at the start and finish Wednesday, the 2004 Wimbledon champion lost 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 to 45th-ranked Gisela Dulko of Argentina.

"Losses are tough—more here than at any other tournament," said Sharapova, who double-faulted seven times in the final set. "I would have liked to have a longer season before coming here."

With easy victories for past champions Serena Williams and Roger Federer, Sharapova's early exit counted as the most surprising development on Day 3 at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament—unless, that is, you count the weather.

The temperature was in the 70s, the sky was bright blue, the clouds were scarce and, for the third day in a row, not a single drop of rain fell. The only use the All England Club is making of Centre Court's fancy, new retractable roof is shifting it slightly to provide some shade for those seated in the Royal Box.

"It's good that it gets a little bit of a workout," club spokesman Johnny Perkins said.

Sharapova's opponent worried about being overwhelmed by the setting: Dulko's only previous visit to Centre Court was when she sat in the stands to watch a match. This time, Dulko was wielding a racket and trying to beat someone who not only has been ranked No. 1 and owns three major championships, but also won their two previous meetings by scores of 6-0, 6-1, then 6-1, 6-1.

Dulko, meanwhile, has only once been to the fourth round at a Grand Slam tournament.

So who would have expected Sharapova to be the wobbly one?

Dulko claimed nine of the first 11 games, changing speeds effectively while Sharapova's errors piled up.

"It took me a while to get going. It's a little too late to start picking yourself up when you're down a set and 3-love," said Sharapova, who had an operation on her right shoulder in October and was off the tour for nine-plus months.

That absence dropped her out of the top 100, but by going 10-3 before Wimbledon—including 6-0 in three-set matches—Sharapova climbed to 60th, and she was seeded 24th based on past success at the tournament. But she was tentative on some shots, just plain off-kilter on others, flubbing some sitters and simple volleys.

"I don't really know if that's because I haven't played," Sharapova said. "When I've had those situations before, those balls would be pieces of cake."

Still, Sharapova did win seven games in a row to take the second set and go ahead in the third.

"She's a fighter," Dulko noted.

The velocity on Sharapova's serves dropped as they played past two hours, and she kept double-faulting, ceding momentum. Dulko, though, was nervous as she sat for the changeover before serving at 5-4 in the third.

"My legs were shaking," she said. "I told myself, 'Calm down.'"

With Sharapova's stroke-accompanying shrieks rising in octave and volume, she kept saving match points in that game, four in all. When Dulko shanked a forehand, it created a break point—and she was hoping for more mistakes by Sharapova.

"I was thinking, 'Please, hit it out. Please, hit it out,'" Dulko said.

Talk about mind over matter. Sharapova put a backhand into the net, pushed a forehand wide and then sailed a forehand long, ending her second consecutive second-round loss at Wimbledon.

How long might it be until she regains the form that made her champion here at age 17 and later carried her to the 2006 U.S. Open and 2008 Australian Open titles?

"I don't really know. I mean, I'd honestly tell you if I knew," Sharapova said. "It's just one of those questions where I don't really have an answer."

One player who might benefit from Sharapova's loss: Williams, the 2002-03 Wimbledon champion, who could have faced the Russian in the quarterfinals. Williams moved into the third round by beating Jarmila Groth 6-2, 6-1.

Eighth-seeded Victoria Azarenka had even less trouble Wednesday, defeating Ioana Raluca Olaru 6-0, 6-0, but No. 16 Zheng Jie—a semifinalist last year—lost to Daniela Hantuchova 6-3, 7-5. Another 2008 semifinalist, No. 18 Rainer Schuettler, was the only seeded man to lose Wednesday, eliminated by Dudi Sela of Israel 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-2. Three U.S. men lost - Taylor Dent, who double-faulted 21 times; Sam Querrey, who lost a five-setter to No. 11 Marin Cilic of Croatia on Centre Court; and Vince Spadea—but No. 28 Mardy Fish beat Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia in four sets to reach the third round and match his best Wimbledon showing.

Next up for Fish is a tougher test, No. 4 Novak Djokovic.

"I'll throw everything I've got at him," Fish said. "I don't have anything else to do."

Federer rarely has to put in extra effort at Wimbledon—he's won 42 of his past 43 matches at the All England Club, and 35 of those were in straight sets—and Wednesday he beat 42nd-ranked Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

Federer's pregnant wife, Mirka, skipped this one.

"She's just not feeling 100 percent. She only felt 95 percent, so we decided it's better if she takes it easy, instead of sitting in the sun, maybe feeling worse the next day," said Federer, trying to win a sixth Wimbledon championship and record-breaking 15th Grand Slam title overall.

As for Centre Court's new top?

"I'm definitely looking forward to my first time under the roof. I don't know if it's going to be this year," Federer said. "But I'll stick around."

Peppers ends stalemate, signs franchise tender

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—With one signature, Julius Peppers went from a disgruntled star seeking to leave town to a rich man who may stick around in Carolina for awhile.

Peppers signed his one-year, $16.7 million tender with the Panthers on Wednesday, five months after the four-time Pro Bowl selection first announced he wanted to play elsewhere next season.

And while the move means Peppers won't hold out of training camp, agent Carl Carey indicated late Wednesday that Peppers is happy with his lucrative one-year deal and is no longer opposed to discussing a long-term deal with the Panthers.

"Recently, I've had positive and productive discussions with the organization," Peppers said in a statement released by Carey. "I am optimistic and focused as I look forward to the upcoming NFL season."

Shortly after the Panthers were eliminated in the playoffs in January, Peppers said he was "maxed out" in Carolina and wanted to play outside linebacker in a 3-4 defense.

The franchise's all-time sacks leader insisted he would never sign a long-term contract with the Panthers and pleaded for them to not place the restrictive franchise tag on him. The Panthers did it anyway. It meant the Panthers had to give him a contract that would pay him more than $1 million a game, but another team couldn't sign him unless it gave Carolina two first-round draft picks in return.

Peppers refused to sign the tender or attend offseason minicamps and optional workouts. While Carey said they received some interest from other teams, no deal was struck.

Peppers, who had been working out in Arizona, decided to sign with Carolina when he realized he had few other options. Before that, Carey said Peppers had discussions with the Panthers that softened his stance on his future with the team. The 29-year-old Peppers turned down a long-term contract before the start of last season.

"Julius is more than satisfied with the outcome and is looking forward instead of backward," Carey said. "He is motivated. he's prepared and he's ready to play football."

Carey said the Panthers made no promise that they won't place the franchise tag on him again next season—which would cost Carolina about $20 million. General manager Marty Hurney said signing the tender does not mean they'll now try to trade Peppers. Only Carey, not the Panthers, could negotiate with other teams while Peppers remained unsigned.

"I've said it a number of times, we want Julius Peppers here," Hurney said. "This one-year contract was signed with the intention of him coming to training camp on Aug. 2 with the Carolina Panthers."

On top of the $16.7 million in guaranteed money, Peppers could earn another $1.5 million if he makes the Pro Bowl and $250,000 for each playoff win, giving him one of the highest single-season contracts in NFL history.

Kendall doubles, scores in Brewers' wild win

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Jason Kendall hit a two-out double in the eighth inning tie the game before scoring the winner on the same play in the Milwaukee Brewers' 4-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday.

Twins starter Nick Blackburn (6-3) scattered nine hits through 7 2-3 innings and had a 3-2 lead when he allowed a single to J.J. Hardy. Kendall hit a ball off the wall in left-center and Brendan Harris' relay throw to the plate skipped past catcher Joe Mauer.

Blackburn, backing up the play, threw to third trying to get Kendall, but the ball sailed away from Joe Crede, allowing Kendall to score easily.

The Brewers, who had lost 10 of 14, snapped a season-high four-game losing streak.

Angels 11, Rockies 3

At Anaheim, California, Vladimir Guerrero ended a 28-game home run drought and had three RBIs, and Bobby Abreu drove in three runs with a homer and a double as the Angels beat Colorado.

Joe Saunders (8-4) allowed a run and four hits in six-plus innings, including a solo homer to Garrett Atkins leading off the seventh. He struck out six and walked one and improved to 5-1 with a 2.70 ERA in eight interleague starts.

Giants 6, Athletics 3

At Oakland, California, Nate Schierholtz hit a two-run homer to help Randy Johnson earn career victory No. 302 as San Francisco beat Oakland.

Aaron Rowand added an RBI double and the Giants captured the season series with Oakland for the first time since 2001 with their second straight winning road series.

Johnson (7-5), who beat Oakland on June 13 for his 301st win, allowed one run and six hits, struck out six and walked one in seven innings.

After Jack Cust's single in the third, Johnson didn't allow another hit until Orlando Cabrera singled in the sixth.

Mariners 4, Padres 3

At Seattle, Franklin Gutierrez led off the eighth inning with a home run off reliever Edward Mujica as Seattle beat San Diego to win its 19th one-run game of the season.

Gutierrez seventh homer of the season barely cleared the wall in left. It was his fourth home run in five games this season against the Padres and the first allowed by Mujica (2-3) since June 6.

Red Sox 6, Nationals 4

At Washington, David Ortiz got his 1,000th RBI as Boston won for a second straight night in its first regular-season visit to Washington since 1971.

Ortiz and Jason Varitek homered and Jon Lester (6-6) allowed three runs and six hits over six innings for the Red Sox, who have won 16 of 21. Jonathan Papelbon got his 17th save.

Craig Stammen (1-3) was perfect for three innings for the Nationals, but the rookie threw a 3-2 changeup to Ortiz with two outs and two on in the fourth. Ortiz has 1,002 RBIs.

Tigers 5, Cubs 3

At Detroit, Gerald Laird and Miguel Cabrera homered to help Detroit beat the Chicago Cubs for its sixth straight win.

Zach Miner (5-1), the third of seven Detroit pitchers, picked up the win. Fernando Rodney finished for his 15th save in as many tries.

Rookie Rick Porcello allowed two runs and seven hits. He walked four in five-plus innings.

White Sox 10, Dodgers 7

At Chicago, Josh Fields, who entered the game in an 0-for-16 slump, hit two of Chicago's season-high six homers in a win over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Fields singled in his first at-bat, hit a two-run, tiebreaking homer in the fourth inning and added a solo shot in the fifth when the White Sox connected three times.

The White Sox built a 10-3 lead, but the Dodgers cut the deficit to three on Matt Kemp's three-run homer in the eighth off Jimmy Gobble.

Yankees 8, Braves 4

At Atlanta, Francisco Cervelli hit his first career homer to break New York's 14-inning scoring drought, and Alex Rodriguez came through with a two-run single to snap Yankee's three-game losing streak over Atlanta.

Joba Chamberlain (4-2) went 6 1-3 innings, giving up two earned runs for his first win in four starts. After Jeff Francoeur's two-out single in the eighth made it 6-4, the Yankees called on closer Mariano Rivera with the potential tying runs on base. He struck out Kelly Johnson and worked a scoreless ninth for his 498th career save and 16th this season.

Pirates 10, Indians 6

At Pittsburgh, Zach Duke allowed one run in six innings and Adam LaRoche drove in three runs as Pittsburgh downed Cleveland.

The Pirates ended a five-game losing streak by scoring three runs in the second and six in the fourth. They finished with 14 hits against five pitchers, opening a 10-1 lead before the Indians scored five runs with two outs in the ninth.

Blue Jays 8, Reds 2

At Toronto, Aaron Hill, Adam Lind and Vernon Wells homered in a five-run first inning as Toronto beat Cincinnati for its third straight win.

Cincinnati lost its fourth in a row and dropped two games under .500 for the first time this season.

Arroyo (8-6) allowed seven runs, six earned, and eight hits in 3 2-3 innings. He walked three and stuck out two and fell to 2-5 with a 6.82 ERA in nine career games against Toronto.

Rays 7, Phillies 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Matt Garza shut down Philadelphia's offense and ex-Phillies slugger Pat Burrell homered for the first time in over two months to lead Tampa Bay past Philadelphia.

The win, Garza's first since May 16, evened the rematch between the participants in last year's World Series at one game apiece. The Phillies, who defeated the Rays in five games in October, won the opener 10-1.

Royals 4, Astros 3, 11 innings

At Houston, Miguel Olivo homered on the first pitch in the 11th inning as Kansas City beat Houston for its second straight win after snapping a five-game losing streak.

Olivo's shot off Jeff Fulchino (2-3) ricocheted off the railing in center field and bounced back onto the field. It was his 11th homer.

Joakim Soria (2-0) blew a save chance but got the win. John Bale pitched a perfect 11th for his first save.

Rangers 2, Diamondbacks 1

At Phoenix, Vicente Padilla pitched seven sharp innings and Taylor Teagarden and David Murphy drove in a run each as Texas beat Arizona to snapa five-game losing streak.

Padilla (6-3) allowed one run and six hits, walked two and struck out three. Padilla, who broke in with Arizona in 1999, has won five of his last six decisions.

Chris Wilson pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his seventh save in eight chances.

Marlins 5, Orioles 2

At Miami, Hanley Ramirez and Cody Ross both drove in two runs and Ricky Nolasco had his fourth straight strong outing for Florida, which downed Baltimore for its fourth straight win.

Ross had three hits, including two doubles, for the Marlins (37-36), who moved above .500 for the first time since May 12.Nolasco (4-6) allowed two unearned runs and seven hits in seven innings. It was his fourth consecutive start surrendering two earned runs or less since being recalled from Triple-A New Orleans on June 7.

Mets 11, Cardinals 0

At New York, Fernando Nieve pitched six scoreless innings to extend his improbable stint with the New York Mets and recent callup Nick Evans hit a two-run homer in a shut out of St. Louis.

David Wright tied a career best with four hits and Ryan Church had three hits and two RBIs in his first start this season as the Mets' cleanup hitter.

Mini Games golf qualifiers start this weekend

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The road to Cook Islands for golfers hoping to represent the CNMI in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games starts this weekend with Refaluwasch Golf Association kicking off its two-day qualifier at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

RGA president Jordon Kossam said the first qualifier this Sunday will tee off at 12pm following an 11am show time.

The second and final qualifier will be held the following week at the Marianas Country Club with the same show and tee-off times.

"We would like to invite all golfers to come out and support these tryouts. The fee for the tryouts is $30 which is exclusive of green fee and optional for players who want to join low net tournament. A portion of the proceeds will go to the team's funds and the rest will be distributed among winners by the lowest net score of the day," said Kossam.

Kossam

He also invited the local golf community to support the national golf team by taking part in the qualifier, even though they would not be qualified to represent the CNMI.

"This tryouts is also an opportunity for the low and high handicappers to come out and play to support the national golf team," he said.

Only U.S. citizens with a total of five years residency in the CNMI—at any given time—can represent the Commonwealth in the Mini Games.

Kossam said they are planning to send a five-man team to Cook Islands composed of four players and one manager.

So far, among local par-busters that have showed interest in joining the nation golf team for the Mini Games in Rarotonga are Jess Wabol, Jesse Semen, Tars Olopai, Ed Manibusan, Ned Norita, Yasu Hirinaka, Sirge Camacho, Dung Tenorio, Tony Satur, Juan Cepeda, and Carl Hocog. Veteran golfer Jeff Taylor will serve as the tryout official, according to Kossam, as the DFS Galleria Saipan employee opted to sit out the Mini Games.

For more information regarding the CNMI national golf team, contact Kossam at 483-4506.

The 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Cook Islands will run from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2.

June King, Queen of the Lanes tourney set

The Saipan Bowling Association and Budweiser will host the June King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament this Sunday and Monday, June 28 and 29, at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

Sunday's roll-off begins at 3pm, while Monday's competition starts at 6pm. Registration starts 30 minutes prior to game time. Awarding ceremonies immediately follow the end of competition on Monday.

The competition is exclusive for SBA members with participants limited to the first 60 entries for each day.

Members have the option to bowl on Sunday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the $15 entry fee is paid. Bowlers who did not bowl on Sunday will be given priority for the Monday shift. Only the higher score will count for the tournament. All participants have to pay the $15 SBA annual membership fee.

The champion is guaranteed $100 in prize money but it could go up to as much $150 depending on the number of participants. Women participants will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

Youth bowlers (12 to 18 years old), meanwhile, will duke it out in the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament in Day 1 of the monthly competition. Entry fee is $10 for the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes.

Youth bowlers must also pay the annual SBA youth membership fee of $10 if they wish to qualify for the annual roll off.

The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament aims to crown 12 monthly champions through the course of the year.

For early registration and payment, see or contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

ELPHINSTON

From Page 40

and administrator will be replacing outgoing FIBA Oceania president and FIBA Central Board member Barbara Wheadon of New Zealand.

Witnessing Elphinston election and the reappointment of five individuals to the FIBA Oceania Management Committee for 2010-2014 was FIBA World secretary general and International Olympic Committee member Patrick Baumaan.

The 2010-2014 FIBA Oceania Management Committee is composed of John Maddock of Australia, John Gallaher of New Zealand, Bill Keldermans of Palau, Michael White of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Robert Vautrin of New Caledonia.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* a day before he was elected FIBA Oceania president, Elphinston said his last two years as FIBA World president will be spent on three major concerns, namely sponsorships, youth development, and women's basketball development. He believes this will also be the focus on FIBA Oceania and other zones in the next few years.

"At this time of crisis, it is a challenge for every organization to find sponsors for its programs and activities. However, we at FIBA will always have to find ways to make both ends meet and ensure that our program will still be in place and implemented," said Elphinston, adding strong programs depends on the youth.

"That's why we are holding this 2010 Youth Olympics in Singapore and will be having a 3-on-3 tournament for the youth next year. Also we are hoping to have more women playing basketball and encourage federations to have regular women's leagues or tournaments," said Elphinston, a household name in Austrian basketball and in the world since his involvement in the sport in 1961.

He was one of the founding directors (on behalf of the Bankstown Club) of the National Basketball League (NBL) and managed the Australian men's basketball team at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. He is currently part of the Australian Olympic Committee as Director of Sport and Operations.

In his more 40 years of involvement in the sports, Elphinston has earned various awards from Australia and the IOC. The list includes the Order of Merit from the Australian Olympic Committee, 1997 Telstra Australia Sports Administrator of the Year, 2000 Olympic Order by the President of the IOC, a "Fellow" award from the Australian Council for Health and Physical Education, and Life Membership of Basketball Australia, NSW Basketball Association, and the Bankstown Basketball Association.

GUAM

From Page 40

Guam men whipped the Tall Blacks, 71-48.

The Tall Ferns finished the elimination round at the No. 2 spot with their 3-1 record and will face New Caledonia, anew in the semifinals today at 11am at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Top-ranked Opals will duel against the Guam national women's team in the other semis game at the Ada Gym today at 9am.

In the men's division, Guam will be pitted against New Caledonia, as the former finished at No. 3, following its 23-point win over the Tall Blacks.

New Zealand, along with Australia, were the early favorites in the tournament, but Guam assistant coach Sid Guzman did not consider their victory over the Tall Blacks as an upset.

"We're pretty even. Both teams are competitive. It just boiled down to execution and control of the game," Guzman said.

However, Guzman believed yesterday's game was their best in the tournament.

"We had a good offensive game and played tough defense today [yesterday]. Against New Caledonia, we hope to keep up that tight defense and lessen our turnovers to have a strong chance to win," Guzman added.

Guam's tight defense held New Zealand to five points in the third period, as the U.S. territory took a 53-30 lead going into the final quarter.

New Zealand failed to make headway in the payoff canto and dropped its last three games in the elimination round. The Tall Blacks also bowed to New Caledonia last Tuesday, 52-62.

Joe Blas led Guam's victory with his 17 points, while William Stinnett and Jine Han added 11 and 10 markers, respectively.

Luke Aston was the only double-figure scorer for the Tall Blacks with 11 points.

In the women's division, Jelena Vucinic, Zoe Kensington, and Emma Gillespie logged 16 points each to lead the Tall Ferns' rout of New Caledonia.

Women's

New Zealand 101 – Vucinic 16, Kensingto 16, Gillespie 16, Caldwell 15, Moore 12, Gallaher 6, Milford 4, Connell 2.

New Caledonia 43 – Fenuafanote 16, Luepak 7, Koteureu 6, Fuller 4, Folituu 4, Sioremu 3, Kolotolu 3.

Scoring by quarters: 21-13, 49-25, 79-32, 101-43.

Men's

Guam 71 – Blas 17, Stinnett 11, Han 10, Susuico 8, Estelle 8, And. Borja 6, Ant. Borja 4, Royster 2, Okada 1.

New Zealand 48 – Aston 11, Makavilitogia 9, Miller 6, Green 5, Nikora 4, Bailey 3, Joyce-Gay 2, Ashby 2, Maiava 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-13, 43-25, 53-30, 71-48.

JUNIOR

From Page 40

The CNMI Junior All-Stars thwarted host Indonesia, 7-4, to improve to a 2-0 record and boost their chances for a finals ticket. The Junior League All-Stars debuted against Hong Kong last Wednesday with a 19-8 win. A win against the defending champion Philippines tomorrow will give the CNMI bets the No. 1 spot in the Junior League. Only the Top 2 teams after the round-robin tournament will duel for the World Series ticket.

Ricardo Dela Cruz went 2-for-2 at bat and had two RBIs.

Aldebert Lizama pitched for the CNMI in six innings, allowed five hits, walked three, made two errors, and struck out five.

Lizama and the CNMI Junior All-Stars defense allowed Indonesia to score only one run in the first six innings, before the host went for a decent finish with a three-run top of the seventh inning.

In the Big League division, the CNMI downed its perennial rival Guam, 5-1, for the Commonwealth's two wins in a row. The defending champion debuted with an 11-0 shutout win over Indonesia last Tuesday.

Giovanni Ayuyu pitched for the CNMI in seven complete innings, had only one error, walked three, allowed five hits, and struck out three.

The only time Guam scored against Ayuyu was at the bottom of the first inning when Shon Daniel's single to centerfield drove Guam's leadoff batter home.

Juan Iguel, Ryan Lisua, and Vicente Cabrera had one RBI apiece for the CNMI, which scored its two other runs off Guam's errors.

The CNM Big League All-Stars were still trailing after four innings, 0-1, when Iguel's single drove Cabrera home. Iguel also reached home plate on Lisua's single to give the CNMI the lead, 2-1.

The defending champions were without a run anew in the sixth inning, but close out with a three-run top of the seventh. Ionis Rasa scored CNMI's third run on another Cabrera single, while Anthony Aldan made it 4-1 on a Guam error. Cabrera also scored on Guam's miscue.

The CNMI will end its elimination round assignment tomorrow against the Philippines, which topped Indonesia last Wednesday, 5-2, and was playing Guam in the afternoon match yesterday.

With their 2-0 record, the CNMI Big League All-Stars strengthened their finals bid and their chance for a return trip to the World Series.

The CNMI Senior All-Stars took a break yesterday and will play their last two games today against Guam and tomorrow against the Philippines.

FREEZE

From Page 40

Ponce Rasa, Ringo Reyes, Jawn Joyner, and Freddy Pelisamen were on the team.

Even though we have a tiny population compared to the other countries, we seem to do all right in youth baseball. For example last year in the Little League Asia-Pacific tournament, the CNMI crushed New Zealand 11-0 and lost a 2-1 heartbreaker to Australia. We can compete with them in baseball but not basketball.

Our youth baseball program, which starts at age 9, is much more consistent and developed than our youth basketball program. That's one reason why the level of basketball on Saipan has never reached the level of baseball here.

But at least the Ada Gym looks nice. Hope it stays that way.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	44	27	.620	–
New York	39	32	.549	5
Toronto	40	33	.548	5
Tampa Bay	38	35	.521	7
Baltimore	32	39	.451	12

Central Division

Detroit	40	31	.563	–
Minnesota	36	37	.493	5
Chicago	34	37	.479	6
Kansas City	31	39	.443	8 1/2
Cleveland	30	43	.411	11

West Division

Los Angeles	38	32	.543	–
Texas	38	32	.543	–
Seattle	36	35	.507	2 1/2
Oakland	31	40	.437	7 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	37	32	.536	–
New York	36	34	.514	1 1/2
Florida	37	36	.507	2
Atlanta	34	37	.479	4
Washington	20	49	.290	17

Central Division

St. Louis	40	33	.548	–
Milwaukee	38	33	.535	1
Chicago	34	34	.500	3 1/2
Cincinnati	34	36	.486	4 1/2
Houston	32	37	.464	6
Pittsburgh	32	39	.451	7

West Division

Los Angeles	47	25	.653	–
San Francisco	39	32	.549	7 1/2
Colorado	37	35	.514	10
San Diego	31	39	.443	15
Arizona	30	42	.417	17

Yesterday's Games

Boston 6, Washington 4
Detroit 5, Chicago Cubs 3
Pittsburgh 10, Cleveland 6
Toronto 8, Cincinnati 2
Tampa Bay 7, Philadelphia 1
Florida 5, Baltimore 2
N.Y. Yankees 8, Atlanta 4
N.Y. Mets 11, St. Louis 0
Kansas City 4, Houston 3, 11 innings
Milwaukee 4, Minnesota 3
Chicago White Sox 10, L.A. Dodgers 7
Texas 2, Arizona 1
L.A. Angels 11, Colorado 3
San Francisco 6, Oakland 3
Seattle 4, San Diego 3

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

FIBA OCEANIA STANDINGS

Men's

Australia	3	0
New Caledonia	2	1
Guam	2	2
New Zealand	1	3
CNMI	0	3

Women's

Australia	4	0
New Zealand	3	1
New Caledonia	2	2
Guam	1	3
CNMI	0	4

Rangers draw first blood against D-9ers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ford Rangers proved to be steadier in the later innings against the D-9ers to pull off a 13-9 victory in Game 1 of their title series in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

A four-run bottom of the seventh gave the Rangers the cushion to halt the streaking D-9ers, who came off a stunning semis series win over deposed champion Rock Steady.

The Rangers are also on a run, as after losing Game 1 of their semis affair against the Tanapag Falcons, the former won the last two games to set up the title duel with D-9ers.

Last year's finalist extended their winning streak to three after limiting D-9ers to two runs in the last four innings behind the good relief job of Franco Flores.

The Rangers started Game 1 with a five-run bottom of the first inning, but D-9ers recovered with three and two runs in the second and third inning to tie the game.

The Rangers, who took this year's pennant with an 11-1 record, broke their silence and regained the lead at the bottom of the fourth, 7-5, before the D-9ers tied it again at the top of the fifth, 7-all.

The Rangers' Pete Tomokane is seen here waiting for his turn at-bat during Game 3 of their semis series against the Tanapag Falcons. The Rangers are in the finals against the D-9ers and won Game 1 of their title series in the BSML last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A two-run bottom of the fifth put the Rangers back on top, 9-7, and the pennant champions remained in the lead after six complete innings, as the D-9ers scored only one run at the top of the sixth.

The D-9ers added one more at the top of the seventh to threaten, 8-9, but the Rangers countered with four runs to peg the final score.

Game 2 of the best-of-five title series will be played tonight.

The Rangers will be going for a commanding 2-0 lead to move a win away from winning the championship that eluded them last year when they lost to Rock Steady in Game 5.

Boholanos stun Bayani, NMBA wins in masters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Boholanos pulled off a 100-89 upset over Bayani in the masters division game in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League last Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan

A jackrabbit start helped Boholanos stun Bayani, which came off a 97-86 triumph over MAFEA in its debut last week. Boholanos also had its first match last week, but their game against Northern Marianas Bartenders Association-Ebisuya was rained out with the latter ahead, 74-73, with 3:09 left in the fourth quarter.

While Boholanos played catch up against NMBA, the former dictated the tempo of their game against Bayani early. Boholanos went up in the first period, 33-18, behind James Abuy's 3-point shooting. Abuy hit three triples in the opening canto, while big men Danny Bicera and Ed Cosino added eight and six markers.

Abuy and company continued to hit from downtown, as even the towering Cosino made two triples and Jinang connected on three 3-pointers. Bicera earned most of his points inside and finished with a team-high 26 points. Cosino, Abuy, Jinang, and Elmer Pineda all scored in double figures.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Boholanos' Elmer Pineda, seen here going for a layup against Ebisuya's Adonis Macoto during their rain-suspended game in the masters division of the UFO caging, scored 13 points in their 100-89 win over Bayani last Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

With most Boholanos players' guns blazing, Bayani failed to notch back-to-back wins despite getting 20-plus points from the trio of Ronald Delos Reyes (27), Jun Tabora (23), and Ed Palma (21). The rest of Bayani crew combined for only 18 points and none made more than six markers.

In the first game in the masters division, Cabalen edged MDX-Armatech, 79-75.

Cabalen leaned on its free throw shooting to eke out a four-point win. The game was tied at the end of the third period, 56-all, when Cabalen went 7-for-9 from the foul line. Sam Fernandez was 2-for-3 from the 15-foot line and added six more points to lift Cabalen to a close win. Francis Andales and Jessie Mina also drilled crucial baskets in Cabalen's first win in the masters division.

In the open division game last Sunday, NMBA broke into the win column after a 0-2 start, following a 145-93 demolition of Cabalen.

Former scoring champion Rowell Aranda, who missed NMBA's first two games, announced his return to the league with a 51-point explosion.

NMBA had the game in full control at halftime, 61-36, and went past the century mark in the third, 103-60, behind Aranda's 17 markers in that canto. Aranda saved his best for last, firing 21 in the fourth quarter, allowing NMBA to score the most lopsided win and made the most points so far in the league. His 51 markers is also a season high.

Defending champion Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense collided with VisMinda in the second game, but the match was suspended due to rain with SIP ahead after three quarters, 59-40.

Masters

First Game

Cabalen 79 – Mina 24, Fernandez 18, Andales 14, Guiang 11, Abuan 7, Herrere 2, Culala 2, Pacheco 1.

MDX 75 – Montano 22, Ebuen 12, Pablo 10, Valencia 6, Malasarte 5, Canedo 5, Moreno 5, Villasan 2, Dayrit 2, Samson 1.

Scoring by quarters: 12-17, 34-33, 56-56, 79-75.

Second Game

Boholanos 100 – Bicera 26, Cosino 23, Abuy 17, Jinang 14, Pineda 13, Dela Torre 5, Moran 2.

Bayani 89 – Delos Reyes 27, Tabora 23, Palma 21, Mateo 6, Vargas 4, Teodoro 4, Hernandez 2, Cantos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 33-28, 56-43m 78-65, 100-89.

Open

NMBA 145 – Aranda 51, Umali 18, Gapor 16, Duenas 16, Aquino 12, Rebuyon 10, Villarin 10, Estolas 6, Opone 2, Abuan 2.

Cabalen 93 – Mina 22, Guiang 16, Cadag 13, Corotan 11, Ortega 10, Banayat 8, Tobias 7, San Antonio 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-18, 61-36, 103-60, 145-93.

Espiritu wins 8-ball tourney anew

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu rebounded from a semis loss to return to the winner's circle in last Saturday's Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament.

Espiritu scratched after pocketing the 8-ball in his semis match against Roman Rodriguez. It was a costly loss, as the island's No. 1 pool player yielded the twice-to-beat advantage to his opponent.

He, however, bounced back in the loser's bracket finals when he ran the table against Erwin Gomez after the latter had an unproductive break.

In Game 1 of the finals, Espiritu avenged his semis lost to Rodriguez by pocketing his three remaining balls and the 8-ball after the latter scratched on his fifth shot.

In the winner-take-all second game, both Espiritu and Rodriguez were locked in a dogfight. Rodriguez eyed his last ball near the rail and made the shot, but once again scratched.

With ball in hand anew, Espiritu sank his remaining ball in the right corner pocket then secured the win when he pocketed the 8-ball

The win was worth $80 for Espiritu, while Rodriguez and Gomez took home the runner-up purses of $35 and $15, respectively.

Espiritu and Rodriguez got off to good starts beating Mark Butac and Taylor Watanabe, respectively, in the opening round.

Other first round winners were Gomez (over Robert Santiangco), Nolan Cultura (over Dean Borja), and Juancho Mendoza (over Ghel Mark Cabrera).

Senen Pangilinan, Top Pool Bar owner Zheng Jian Qing, and Bradley Demapan all had byes in the first round.

In the second round, Rodriguez defeated Pangilinan, Gomez beat Zheng, Espiritu took care of Demapan, and Mendoza out-steadied Cultura.

Espiritu and Rodriguez then forged the semifinals pairing after respectively closing out Gomez and Mendoza in the quarterfinals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu is flanked by runners-up Erwin Gomez, right, and Roman Rodriguez after winning last Saturday's Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

The Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament is held every Saturday and adopts a double-elimination format with a maximum of 16 players.

The entrance fee is $10 and the tournament uses the rules of the Billiards Congress of America. Practice is free between 7pm to 8pm on game day.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, call Zheng at 287-7676.

Flores takes RGA June Ace

Sonny Flores won the June Ace of the Month Tournament of the Refaluwash Golf Association after carding a score of net 66 last Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

The former CNMI national basketball coach fired a gross of 79 at the Talafofo golf course, which after his 13 handicap, gave him the score to beat last weekend. He shot a 39 in the front and a 40 in the back.

The net 66 actually toppled June qualifier topnotcher John Rebuenog from his lofty perch. Rebuenog set the qualifying score of net 71 during the RGA qualifying tournament last June 6 at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Two golfers tied for second with Ray Villagomez and Joe Wabol carding identical net scores of 67. Villagomez eventually beat out Wabol in a tiebreak with the former shooting a 33.5 net in the front nine against the latter's 34.5.

Completing the Top 7 in the June Ace were Jess Wabol (net 70) and Tars Olopai, Louie Tilipao, and Tom Tebuteb, who fired identical net scores of 71 apiece.

Manny Mangarero (net 72), Jordon Kossam (74), Vince Attao (74), Tony Rogolifoi (78), Jessie Seman (79), Joe Saures (82), and Dwayne Stephens (83) also took part in the weekend golf-fest.

In the closest to the pin competition, Mangarero was without peer in hole No. 6, while Villagomez took the plum in hole No. 15.

For more information regarding RGA and its monthly qualifiers and tournaments, contact club president Jordon Kossam at 483-4506 or RGA tournament director Jess Wabol at 288-1129. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Rangers draw first blood against D-9ers

The Ford Rangers proved to be steadier in the later innings against the D-9ers to pull off a 13-9 victory in Game 1 of their title series in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball Wednesday. **39**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Source: Cavaliers close to trade for Shaq

The Cleveland Cavaliers are close to acquiring center Shaquille O'Neal in a trade with the Phoenix Suns, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Thursday. **36**

Elphinston elected FIBA Oceania president

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Australia's Bob Elphinston is returning to his old post, as he was unanimously elected president of FIBA Oceania for 2010-2014 during the FIBA Oceania Congress held last Wednesday at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Elphinston was FIBA Oceania president from 2002 to 2006 before he was elected FIBA World president for the period of 2006-2010. With his election as new FIBA Oceania president, Elphinston will still be a member of the FIBA Central Board from 2010-2014.

The Australian veteran coach

See ELPHINSTON on Page 38

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Newly elected FIBA Oceania president Bob Elphinston, right, poses with, from right, FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith, 2010-2014 FIBA Oceania Management Committee member John Gallaher of New Zealand, FIBA World secretary general Patrick Baumaan, and current FIBA Oceania president Barbara Wheadon of New Zealand after watching the CNMI vs Guam men's game last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Freeze the gym, please

Too bad they don't sell facility preservatives.

If only we could freeze the Ada Gym to keep it exactly the way it was for the FIBA Oceania Basketball championships.

Let's face the fact: maintenance isn't sexy.

Once again (amazingly this happens over and over again) Saipan put everything together in a mad rush just in time to serve as the perfect host for an international event. It's what we do best.

Last month the Ada Gym was so sorry, sad, and smelly that the homeless and stray dogs found better places to stay.

Kudos to the small, hard working crew that got things done (basically same guys who always do—you know who they are). Money took time coming in, nothing happened for months but in the end, the last moment really, the government and businesses stepped up (you know who they are) and the tournament has run as smooth as a Connie Camacho outside shot.

For the first time in its 21-year history, the island's most heavily used sports venue had a definite women's touch. Imagine, potted plants at the entrance to the locker, medical and referee rooms, palm fronds, wreaths, a clean floor (three days before opening day I saw Rose White on her knees scrubbing the court) and island-style cloth decorating the scorer's table.

As someone who has gone to virtually every game in the Ada Gym since it was built in 1988, this was a most enjoyable and pleasant experience. The west-side entrance instead of the front is a major improvement for crowd flow. Having a straight line of chairs for each team at every game is also a nice touch. I hope the Division of Sports and Recreation adopts the style used during this tournament for future leagues.

A major problem for the Ada Gym is betel nut spit. As long as people chew betel nut inside there, it will never be sanitary. And I wish there was some way to ban magic markers from the restrooms, however I realize finding a peaceful solution to the Middle East may be easier than preventing graffiti.

I have also been impressed with the overall sportsmanship exhibited by all the teams. While I expected that from Australia and New Zealand, I wasn't so sure about Guam based on some ugly incidents that I witnessed in the past. But both their men's and women's teams have been models of goodwill and class from what I have seen.

As for quality of play, Australia as expected looks to be heads and shoulders above the rest (yes, that's a pun!) The New Caledonia men have been the most surprising to me and should give Australia a good game in the championship tonight (I'm assuming that's who will be in the finals).

As for the CNMI teams, we knew that the competition would be at a higher level than we are used to playing. Without a women's league on Saipan, it's difficult to put together a competitive team. I congratulate coach Bill Sewell for taking a bunch of high school girls and getting them to play their hearts out regardless of the score. We obviously have a future point guard in 15-year-old Lia Rangamar.

As for the CNMI's men's team, let me quote former NFL coach Bill Parcells, "If they want you to cook the dinner, at least they ought to let you shop for some of the groceries." Coach Rufino Aguon is doing the best he can with the players who tried out for the team. One can only speculate as to how good we good have been if our top players such as Ed Diaz, Mark Wallace,

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Guam men 'upset' Kiwis, Tall Ferns demolish NC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

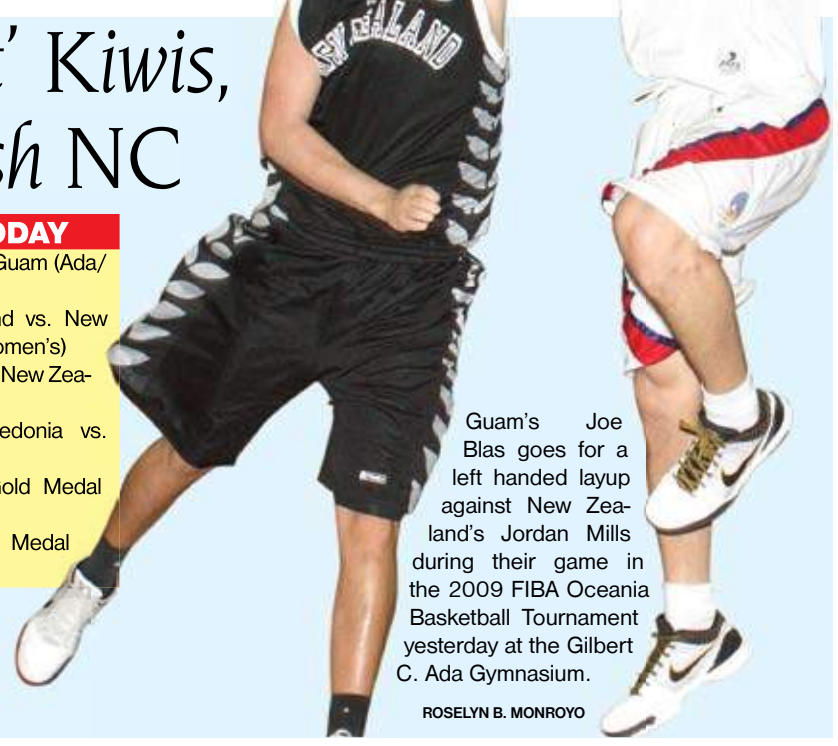
New Zealand's men and women's teams had mixed fortunes at the conclusion of the elimination round of the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Tall Ferns ripped New Caledonia, 101-43, in the women's division, while the

See GUAM on Page 38

GAMES TODAY

- 9am Australia vs. Guam (Ada/ women's)
- 9am New Zealand vs. New Caledonia (MHS/ women's)
- 11am Australia vs. New Zealand (Ada/men's)
- 11am New Caledonia vs. Guam (MHS/men's)
- 6pm Women's Gold Medal Game
- 8pm Men's Gold Medal Game



Guam's Joe Blas goes for a left handed layup against New Zealand's Jordan Mills during their game in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Junior, Big League All-Stars still unbeaten

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior and Big League All-Stars remained undefeated in the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament after Day 3 of the competition yesterday at the Gelora Bung Karno Baseball Field in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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The CNMI Junior League All-Stars, seen here posing for a group photo after their 19-8 win against Hong Kong in the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament last Wednesday at the Gelora Bung Karno Baseball Field in Jakarta, Indonesia, thwarted host Indonesia yesterday, 7-4.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO